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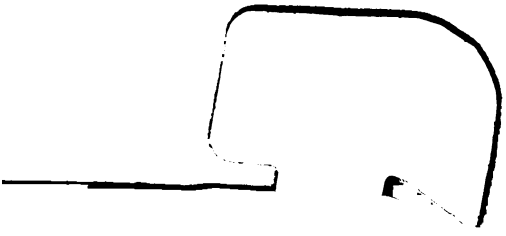

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THE

BEAUTIES

OF

SCOTLAND:

CONTAINING

A CLEAR AND FULL ACCOUNT

OF THE

AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE, MINES,

AND

MANUFACTURES;

OF THE

POPULATION, CITIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, &c.

OF EACH COUNTY.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS.

VOL. V.

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TO

SIR JOHN SINCLAIR OF ULBSTER,

BARONET, M. P.

AND

PRESIDENT

OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

SIR,

THIS Volume is respectfully addressed to the distinguished promoter and patron of the important art to which nations owe their subsistence; of whom, in future times, it will be said, that he found means to diffuse among mankind a larger portion of useful knowledge than had been accomplished by any individual of his own or of any former age.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant,

RO. FORSYTH.

THE

BEAUTIES

OF

SCOTLAND.

CAITHNESS, CONTINUED.

Climate.

THE climate is certainly more rainy than that of the greater part of the eastern coast of Scotland, but not so wet as that on the western side. The rains are most frequent in the spring and autumn. About the beginning of January there is generally a fall of snow, which continues, in the upper district, to the end of February, and sometimes, but very seldom, to the middle of March. In the level country, particularly on the coast, the snow lasts much shorter, which is attributed to the wind blowing in the winter and spring months mostly from the north, the east, and the south-east; all of which, coming from the sea, have a tendency to bring on a thaw. In the month of May a north-west wind generally blows; the sky is dusky, with but little rain. The coldness of the weather at this season is a great bar to vegetation; and in the eastern parts of the country, where the soil is a mixture of black earth and sand, and consequently rather tender, it has a tendency to promote the increase of that species of vermine called here the *storet*, which destroy the young plants of

State of Property.

barley and oats, by cutting the roots below the ground. The farmers preserve their young cabbage plants from these insects by dipping their roots in lime and water before they are put into the ground when they are transplanted.

Size of estates.

The landed property of this county is held in nearly the following manner: Five estates are worth from L.1000 to L.8400 *per annum* each; seven estates are worth from L.400 to L.600 *per annum* each; twelve are worth from L.100 to L.300 *per annum* each; six are worth from L.50 to L.100 *per annum*; and four below L.50 *per annum*. Besides these, the crown possesses property worth L.200 *per annum*; and the towns of Wick and Thurso are not included in this statement.

Farmers.

The lands are still occupied, in a great degree, by small tenants. The following is the old mode in which the rents were paid: The landlord received a trifling acknowledgment in money, the rent being principally paid in grain or victual, that is, bear and oat-meal. In addition to the rent, the tenants of that description were bound to perform the following services; namely, tilling, dunging, sowing, and harrowing a part of an extensive farm in the proprietor's possession; providing a certain quantity of peats for his fuel; thatching a part of his houses; furnishing *simmons* or ropes of straw or heath for that purpose, and for securing his corn in the barn-yard; weeding the land; leading a certain quantity of turf from the common for manuring the farm; mowing, making, and ingathering the hay, the spontaneous produce of the meadows and marshy grounds; cutting down, harvesting, thrashing out, manufacturing, and carrying to market or sea-port, a part of the produce of the farm. Besides these services, the tenants paid in kind the following articles, under the name of customs; namely, *straw-cazzies* (a

sort of bag made of straw, used as sacks for carrying grain or meal); ropes made of hair for drawing the plough; *foss*, or reeds, used for these or similar purposes; *tethers*, or ropes made of hair, which being fixed in the ground by a peg or small stake, and the cattle tied to them, prevented them from wandering over the open country; straw for thatching, &c. The tenants also, according to the extent of their possessions, kept for the landlord a certain number of cattle during the winter-season; paid vicarage or the smaller tithes, as of lamb, wool, &c.; a certain number of fowls and eggs; in the Highlands, veal, kid, butter, and cheese; and on the sea-coast the tithe of their fish and oil, besides assisting in carrying sea-ware for manuring the proprietor's farm. In some parts of the country the tenth sheaf of the produce, or tithe, was exacted by the proprietor in kind. Sometimes also a certain quantity of lint was spun for the lady of the house, and a certain quantity of woollen yarn annually exacted. Such were the various sorts of payments which almost universally prevailed in the county of Caithness about thirty or forty years ago; but of late they have been converted, by the generality of landlords, either into grain or money, or have fallen into disuse. Agriculture.

Still, however, in consequence of want of capital on the part of the tenants, the farms are in general extremely small; but it is to be observed, that in no part of the island does a greater zeal for the improvement of the territory exist than among the proprietors of land in the county of Caithness. They are extremely anxious to obtain farmers from the south of Scotland; and they themselves give an example of every sort of agricultural improvement. They also are anxious to adopt every public improvement which can be suggested. This is not surprising, when it is considered that the gentleman who

Agriculture.

established the Board of Agriculture, and collected and published the Statistical Account of Scotland, and who has certainly rendered himself the instrument of collecting and diffusing a greater mass of beneficial practical knowlege than was ever given to the world by any one individual, is one of the great proprietors of this county, It would have been surprising if he had been unable to diffuse around him, in his native district, a portion of his own activity and public spirit.

Culture of wastes.

The cultivation of wastes is here going on with much vigour. In one year a single proprietor ploughed between 500 and 600 acres of waste land, and immediately brought it under crop. A considerable proportion of the land was, till lately, held in commons; but it has been found practicable to divide them, by the neighbouring proprietors entering into a bond of submission to some gentlemen of the country in whom they have confidence. One tract of 2500 acres was in this way divided at a very moderate expence; and another of 4500 acres was immediately thereafter brought to division in the same form. Very extensive trials have been made of improving the soil by paring and burning; and these have been found to be attended with great success. In this way large tracts of land, having a steril crust on the surface, generally of the nature of peat, and producing only the most coarse plants, may soon be expected to be brought at once into an excellent state of tillage and fertility. Some extensive improvements have also been made by draining. At the loch of Durin, in particular, a great tract of valuable land, and an inexhaustible quantity of the richest marl, have been secured by two proprietors at a moderate expence; and other undertakings of a like nature are carrying on.

Crops reared.

It is found that winter wheat is a much hardier grain than winter rye. Winter tares cannot be depended on in the

northern part of the island; but they may be sown early in spring with much advantage, and answer better than what are called spring tares, being much hardier. They should be sown, however, immediately after the land is ploughed. There is reason to believe that carrots will answer on fen or mossy land, if a sufficient quantity of ashes is spread on the ground where they are sown; and it is probable that lime and other manures may raise that valuable crop on peaty soil. It is desirable to cultivate oats having only one pickle instead of two or three. The grain is plumper, ripens earlier, and is much less liable to shake; the sample, also, is more equal, and consequently must fetch a better price at market. An acre of moss land, after being pared and burnt, was sown on the 30th May with grass seeds alone (red clover, rye-grass, with a small mixture of other grasses), and on the 30th September it was fit to mow. The plan of laying down land, even in good heart, to grass, without a crop of grain, cannot be too strongly recommended; but it would seem to be a system peculiarly well adapted for new lands. It would appear that the northern parts of Scotland produce peat, the ashes of which is equal in quality to the Berkshire, when burnt by the same process. Agriculture.

Great exertions are making here for the improvement of the roads; an object essentially necessary to the success of agriculture. A very liberal aid has for this purpose been obtained from government, on condition that the proprietors shall expend money to a proportional amount upon this beneficial purpose. It may be remarked, that the entry to this county from the south, along the shore, is by a celebrated pass, called the *Ord of Caithness*, which has been described by travellers, and in particular by Pennant, as very frightful and dangerous. The road passes along the south side of the hill of Ord, which is very steep, Roads.

Roads. sloping along to the top of a rock which is many fathoms in height. This pass has been surveyed by the direction of government, and a tract has been discovered, by which the road may be conducted without danger, upon an ascent of not more than one foot in thirty. It is farther to be remarked, that the cultivators of the soil in this district possess the advantage, in consequence of their situation, of being able to bring their corn crops to market at a very trifling expence. This arises from their vicinity to the sea-coast. It costs less to convey grain from Caithness to London, than to convey it to a distance of five or six miles inland; so that, upon the whole, this may be considered as one of the most promising districts in the north of Scotland; and it is one in which speculators in agriculture have an important field of enterprise, because the soil is level and new, and proprietors anxious to give encouragement to enterprising men.

Animals. In the central or upper part of the county of Caithness the following animals are found. The quadrupeds are, black cattle, sheep, goats, swine, dogs, cats, hares, rabbits, otters, foxes, badgers, rats, mice, moles, weasels, and wild cats. The birds are, eagles, hawks, swans, ducks, wild geese, sea-pies, sea-plovers, scale-ducks, herns, cormorants, marrets or auks, king's fishers, rain-geese, moor-fowls, plovers, partridges, lapwings, snipes, tame ducks, plover-pages, tillings, linnets, thrushes, hill-sparrows, common sparrows, wrens, buntings, larks, swallows, yellow hammers, water-wagtails, titmice, jackdaws, jackbits, ravens, wood-larks, whimbrels, starlings, curlows, redbreasts, cuckows, night-rails, pigeons, snow-fowls, rooks; and in the highest part of the county wood-cocks, black cocks, and heath-hens are sometimes seen. Of these the swan, wild goose, sea-duck, marrot, night-rail, redbreast, cuckow, wood-cock, and snow-fowl, are migra-

tary. Adders are sometimes found in the mosses, but they are not numerous. The snow-fowl, in the winter, are inconceivably numerous. The hills are exceedingly well stocked with the moor-game above mentioned. The coasts, throughout the year, abound in multitudes of sea-fowl. In the summer months, the swarms of scarfs, marrots, faiks, &c. that come to hatch in the rocks of Dungis Bay and Stroma are prodigious. They in a manner darken the air, when, on any sudden alarm, they take wing in a body from their nests. Animals.

In the upper district of the county sheep-farming has been introduced, to supplant the ancient practice of rearing small Highland cattle. The weight of the native cattle amounts to between 200 and 300 lbs. Dutch; the working oxen, full grown, to 400 lbs. weight; but large cattle are now reared on the farms belonging to gentlemen. The Caithness horses are about twelve hands high; and the favourite colours are brown and dark gray. Considerable quantities of poultry were reared in former times, when the rent was paid in kind; but their number has diminished since money-rents were introduced. Abundance of geese are reared, especially upon the coasts. There is likewise a superabundance of swine throughout the lower part of the county. They are of a small breed, not remarkable for fattening quickly; but, when fattened, they become excellent hams and pickled pork. The Gael, or native Highlanders, abhor the flesh of swine, but here they have always abounded. Live stock.

The minerals of this county have not hitherto proved of much value to their owners. Whinstone, granite, and freestone are found; and lime and marl are not wanting. The only fuel which the country produces is peat; which, however, is in great abundance. Great hopes have at different times been entertained that coal might be found; Minerals.

Minerals. but hitherto such hopes have only been productive of disappointment. A mineral resembling coal has indeed been found. It emits a hot vivid flame when burning, but without much dissolution of parts, or diminution of size, after it becomes extinct; so that, instead of coal, it seems to be an earthy substance, impregnated with volatile inflammable matter. It is usually got near the surface of the earth. In the burn of Hempster is found white spar of the purest quality. When put into the fire, a very slight degree of heat makes it throw out a considerable portion of phosphoric light, which gradually decays as the stone cools, and is again recruited as the stone is heated anew. When reduced to a powder, it puts on an exceeding brilliant and beautiful appearance during ignition. In electrical experiments it is a non-conductor; nor does it seem soluble in acids.

Lead, iron ore, &c. In the parish of Reay a slender vein of lead ore has been discovered, but in circumstances that afforded no inducement to work it. Iron ore is found in the same neighbourhood. Sir John Sinclair has also discovered, near Thurso, a small vein of yellow mundick, and also considerable quantities of white mundick. Mr Raspe, a German mineralogist, near the same place, discovered a regular vein of heavy spar, mixed with lead and crystals, three feet in breadth; but the mine has never been wrought. A copper mine, near the Old Castle of Wick, was once begun to be wrought, but the undertaking was afterwards dropped.

Wick. This county contains one royal borough, Wick, on the south-east coast; and also the town of Thurso, on the north coast. Wick stands on the estuary of a small river of the same name. The town is small, and the streets narrow and confined; but it contains several good buildings. The town and lands of Wick were anciently a part

of the earldom of Caithness. On the application of George Earl of Caithness, a charter was granted by King James the Sixth of Scotland, of date the 24th September 1589, erecting the town of Wick into a royal borough. On the 8th October 1672, his great grandson, another George Earl of Caithness, disponed the whole earldom of Caithness, including the lands and tenements of the town of Wick, to John Campbell of Glenorchy, afterwards created Earl of Breadalbane; by whose successor in title it was sold in 1718 to the family of Sinclair of Ulbster. On a general order from the convention of royal boroughs, the set or government of the borough of Wick was ultimately fixed in 1716; by which, in all time coming, the consent of the original founders of the borough, and their successors, was declared to be necessary to the election of magistrates. By this set the old magistrates make out a list, called a *leet*, consisting of two, out of which a provost; four, out of which two bailies, are to be chosen by the burgesses on the roll; and the leet must be presented thirty days before Michaelmas to be approved of by the superior. The provost and the two bailies, thus elected, have the right of choosing seven counsellors, a treasurer, and a dean of guild. In consequence of these regulations, Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, and his predecessors, have annually been in the practice of approving a leet presented to them of the magistrates to be chosen. Wick is one of five boroughs, each of which chooses a delegate for returning a member to parliament for the northern district. The income or common good of the town is very trifling; but it is on the increase, and arises from customs payable on different articles sold at market, shore-dues on ships, &c. Wick.

Wick is the county town, or capital of the shire, and consequently the seat of the sheriff-court. Along with Kirkwall, Dornock, Dingwall, and Tain, it sends a mem-

Thurso. ber to parliament. The harbour, at present, is quite natural, and very inconvenient; but several of the proprietors have it contemplation to erect a new harbour, which, if completed, would not only be of great importance to the town, but also to the kingdom at large, by saving many vessels which are wrecked on this coast; there being no safe harbour between Cromarty Frith and the Orkneys. If this harbour is completed, the town will also receive a considerable addition to its size towards the south, where a new town is to be feued, on a neat and regular plan, on the estate of Sir Benjamin Dunbar. The chief branch of commerce and industry is the fisheries, which are prosecuted with great attention.

Thurso. The town of Thurso, on the northern side of the coast of Caithness, stands at the extremity of a spacious and beautiful bay, being the western part or branch of the Bay of Dunnet, where the river Thurso falls into the sea. The scenery round the town has considerable natural magnificence. On one side, a spacious bay, formed on the east by the bold and lofty promontory called Dunnet Head, and on the west by Welbrown Head; both which cover the bay from the tremendous waves of the Pentland Frith. These, in storms of wind from the west or from the north, beat with dreadful violence against these headlands, and present an awful prospect to the eye. On the opposite side of Pentland Frith, in view of Thurso, at the distance of eight leagues, the Hoy Hills in Orkney, rising gradually from the summit of a range of rocks of tremendous height which overhang the sea, rear their majestic heads, and contribute greatly to the grandeur of the prospect.

At the bottom of this beautiful bay, as already noticed, where the river Thurso falls into the sea, the town stands. Between the town and Holburn Head, in the western side

of the bay, is the anchoring ground known by the name of Scrabster Road, which is skirted by a beautiful green bank, in form of a crescent, extending from the town to the extremity of the point of Holburn Head. The country, to the west, south, and east of the town, rises by a gentle acclivity to the extent of some miles; and the intermediate space presents a rich prospect of well cultivated fields and pleasant villas, particularly of Thurso East, anciently called Thurso Castle, the seat of Sir John Sinclair; the improvements around which are extensive. The town is irregularly built, containing no edifices of any note except the church, which is an old substantial Gothic building in good repair. A new town, on a regular plan, is beginning to be feued on the banks of the river, in a pleasant elevated situation: and such is the spirit of improvement in the neighbourhood, that inclosed lands let as high as L.5, 5s. *per* acre. Though the ancient history of this town cannot be traced with any degree of certainty, it is probable, from many circumstances, that in former times it was a place of considerable trade and consequence. Indeed, its happy situation, at the mouth of a river possessing a valuable salmon-fishing, and a natural harbour, must have early rendered it a place of note. The town is a borough of barony, holding of Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Baronet, as superior. The charter of erection was granted in 1633, by King Charles the First, in favour of John Master of Berrydale, by which it was entitled "to all and sundry privileges, immunities, and jurisdictions, belonging to a free borough of barony of Scotland," and to hold a weekly market and five free fairs yearly; of which only two are kept. It is governed by a magistracy of two bailies and twelve counsellors, elected by the superior, and retained in office during the superior's pleasure. The principal manufacture of the town is coarse

Thurso.

Thurso. linen cloth. There is a bleachfield and a tannery in the neighbourhood, which promise to succeed. For the convenience of trade, there is here established a branch of the Bank of Scotland, which is of material advantage, not only to the county of Caithness, but also to the Orkneys.

Harbour. The harbour is about to be improved. An act of parliament for that purpose has been obtained; and it is intended to make the harbour as complete as possible, so as to admit vessels of from 300 to 500 tons, at least in spring-tides; also to have a dock, a regulating weir, and a slip for ship-building. The whole expence will probably exceed L.10,000. Eight vessels, employed in the fisheries or the coasting trade, belong to the town. Corn and meal are exported to the value of L.12,000 Sterling annually, and fish to a larger amount. A great part of the salmon taken in the river is boiled, and sent to London in kits, to the amount, at an average, of 700 or or 800 kits; besides about 250 barrels, taken here and in the neighbourhood, which are pickled and exported. The herring-fishery is sometimes very considerable. Upwards of 7000 barrels are usually cured annually at the port of Thurso for exportation. Of these two-thirds are salted as white herrings, and the remainder are smoked as red herrings. A considerable cod-fishery is also carried on. Before the commencement of the war of the French revolution, a London fishing-vessel or cod-smack was never seen in the Pentland Frith. Being driven from the Dogger Bank by the annoyance of French and Dutch privateers, they ventured to explore the northern coasts of Caithness and Sutherland in search of cod; and now, as a proof of their success, and that they find no danger in the experiment, it is no uncommon thing to see five-and-twenty London smacks at once lying at anchor in Scrabster Roads. They come upon the coast in September, and continue until March;

and no sooner carry one cargo of live fish to market than they return for another. For the most part they fish in Pentland Frith during the day-time, and in the evenings return to Scrabster Roads to lie during the night; but sometimes they run as far to the westward as Cape Wrath; and when they do not find it convenient to return to Scrabster Roads, they take shelter in Loch Eribol or Erripool, on the northern coast of Sutherland. The native fishermen at first bore the London smacks no good will, complaining that they carried off the fish which the natives should catch; but the strangers, by degrees, found it necessary to employ northern fishermen as extra hands; which they were tempted to do on account of their accepting lower wages and cheaper provisions than were expected by the English seamen. Antiquities.

Of the antiquities of this county, one that is most extensively known has already been mentioned, John-o-Groat's House. The traditional history of John-of-Groat is this: In the reign of James the Fourth of Scotland, Malcolm, Gavin, and John de Groat (supposed to have been brothers, and originally from Holland), arrived in Caithness from the south of Scotland, bringing with them a letter written in Latin by that prince, recommending them to the countenance and protection of his loving subjects of the county of Caithness. They purchased or got possession of the lands of Warse or Dungis Bay, lying in the parish of Canisby, on the side of the Pentland Frith; and each of them obtained an equal share of the property they acquired. In process of time their families increased, and there came to be eight different proprietors of the name of Groat, who possessed these lands amongst them; but whether the three original settlers split their property among their children, or whether they purchased for them small possessions from one another, does not ap- Antiquities. John-of-Groat.

Antiquities. pear. These eight families having lived peaceably and comfortably in their small possessions for a number of years, established an annual meeting to celebrate the anniversary of the arrival of their ancestors on that coast. In the course of their festivity on one of these occasions, a question arose respecting the right of taking the door, and sitting at the head of the table, and such like points of precedency (each contending for the seniority and chieftainship of the clan), which increased to such a height as would probably have proved fatal in its consequences to some, if not all of them, had not John de Groat, who was proprietor of the ferry, interposed. He expatiated on the happiness they had hitherto enjoyed since their arrival in that remote corner, owing to the harmony which had subsisted among them. He assured them, that as soon as they began to split and quarrel among themselves, their neighbours, who till then had treated them with respect, would fall upon them, take their property from them, and expel them from the county. He therefore made a proposal to build a house in a particular form, which should be the property of the whole family, and in which every man should find himself the master, and which should satisfy them all with respect to precedency, and prevent the possibility of such disputes among them at their future anniversary meetings. They all acquiesced, and departed in peace. In due time, John de Groat, to fulfil his engagement, built a room, distinct by itself, of an octagon shape, with eight doors and windows in it; and having placed in the middle a table of oak of the same shape, when the next anniversary meeting took place, he desired each of them to enter at his own door, and sit at the head of the table, he taking himself the seat that was left unoccupied. By this ingenious contrivance, any dispute in regard to rank was prevented, as they all found them-

selves on a footing of equality, and their former harmony and good humour was restored. Antiquities.

Scattered over the county of Caithness, are still to be found a variety of these singular structures denominated by tradition Picts Houses, and by the Highlanders of the west of Scotland *Duns*. They are considered as the remains of structures erected by the Picts, who inhabited the whole east coast of Scotland, including Caithness and the Orkney and Shetland isles; or to whom belonged, in this district, the whole territory not considered as Highlands, or appropriated to those who speak the Erse language. Sir John Sinclair examined one of these buildings. He remarks, that the foundation of the house was laid with clay; but they seem to have been totally unacquainted with the use of lime as a cement: nor was even clay itself made use of in the upper part of the building. Many of the stones were of an enormous size, and evidently brought from the shore, though the distance is not inconsiderable. They could neither be carried there, nor afterwards made use of, without great strength or ingenious mechanical inventions. Some earthern ware was discovered, very rudely manufactured; a sufficient proof at how low an ebb the arts were in the Pictish nations. A few small copper coins were found in the ruins, but much defaced, and the engraved letters not legible. From the number of horns and shells found in the house, it is probable that the principal food of the inhabitants consisted of venison, and the shell-fish called limpets. The bones of cattle were also discovered, which proves that pasturage was not wholly unknown. The Picts seem to have been acquainted with the use of iron, for a knife was found calculated for taking the limpets off the rocks, and such as is in use to this day. Some singular articles made of bone were discovered; the nails by which they Picts houses.

Antiquities. were fixed were of bone also, but the use of them is unknown.

It may be observed, in general, that in form these buildings are almost without exception of a circular base, rising into the shape of a cone, with its top somewhat blunted; and as they are generally every where in ruins, their outside is covered with a thick sward of fine grass, and on a superficial view they have very much the appearance of large tumuli or barrows. Stones of a convenient form, and of a large size, without any sort of cement, are the materials of which they have been constructed; and, on a more narrow inspection, they appear evidently to be of two kinds, differing from each other both in their structure and dimensions. The smaller, which seems to be the oldest, consist of one thick circular wall, in the inside of which there are sometimes places that might have served for beds: and this form, we are told, was agreeable to a mode of building among the people of Iceland and other Scandinavian colonies. In some of them at a greater, and in others at a less height, this wall begins to converge gradually towards the top, till only a small hole remained, which seems to have been either covered with flat stones, or suffered to be open. The larger are far more complicated in their internal structure. Besides the outer wall, which they have in common with the former, they have also an inner one, concentric with and distant about two feet from the other: and these walls are so formed as sometimes to meet at no great height, and thus inclose a space around the bottom of the building. In the form of others of this kind there is still greater variety. Like the the former, they have two walls, but these neither meet nor coverge, but ascend parallel to each other, at the distance of little more than two feet; and this space, which is entered by a door of two feet high from without, is

occupied by a stair, of a winding spiral form, from the bottom to the top of the building. The largest kind, which are here, as well as in other places, denominated *burghs*, are surrounded by a broad deep ditch and a sort of rampart. The walls of these buildings are usually nine or ten feet in thickness. It seems evident that the builders of them knew not how to throw an arch; and they are even perhaps older than that invention. This explains the cause of the narrowness of their cells, and of the walls being made to converge towards each other. It seems probable that these buildings were used as granaries for provisions, or as places into which the women and children retreated when the men were at a distance engaged in war. They sometimes stand on high land near the sea; and several of them here are found in every parish. They are usually placed on the brinks of precipitous rocks, but much oftener on the skirts of sandy bays, and in the vicinity of landing places. They usually stretch, in a chain, from one headland to another, in full view of the harbour and of the ocean; and have been evidently so arranged as to communicate one with another. Far from being confined to this place, they are found, and that too in similar situations, in the country from which the Picts originally came, as well as in those that constituted their own extensive dominion. In proof of this, it may be observed, that there is a remarkable one of that kind at Snalsburg near Drontheim; another, called the Castle of Ymsburg, in Westrogothia. Many of them are still to be seen on the shores of Caithness, of Sutherland, and of East Ross. The vale of Glenelg, near Bernera, contains no fewer than four. The foundation of several have been discovered on a plain near Perth; and that of Dornodilla, in Strathnaver, is no less distinguished for its structure than the very large one at

Antiquities. Picts houses.

Antiquities. Dunrobin Castle, which seems to have within its precincts several smaller ones, its connections or dependents. But turning from these, if we direct our attention to the north, with a view to explore the Pictish territories in that quarter, we shall find these ancient structures perhaps in greater number, but certainly more entire, of a more curious form, and of much larger dimensions. Those found in Shetland, and known every where in that country by the name of burghs, are much superior, in these respects, to what are here, or even perhaps to any in Scotland. In the south, and on the east coast, there are but few of them now entire; having been demolished, partly from curiosity, to know their structure and contents, and partly to carry off their materials to inclose lands or build farm houses. But among the islands, both on the north and west of Scotland, and along the whole west coast of the Highlands, where there has been no want of materials for these purposes, these curious edifices have been suffered to remain unhurt, in testimony of the respect that the inhabitants have entertained for the works of their ancestors.

In the parish of Latheron, towards the western part of the county, are several old castles, as well as Pictish buildings, of the nature now mentioned. The castles are, Berrydale, Dunbeath (still inhabited), Knockinnon, Latheron, Forss, Swingle, and Clyth. These were places of strength in the days of rapine and violence. Most of these castles stood on a high rock above the sea, and cut off from the land by a deep ditch with a drawbridge. Part of the walls of the old castle at Achaistal still remain entire, and human bones are occasionally found in the ruins. The old castle of Achaistal was built and possessed by John Beg, third son to the Earl of Sutherland. In those times, parties of robbers or freebooters used to infest this county. A party of these came to John Beg's

Achaistal Castle.

house, and insisted that he should pay a certain sum in name of tribute, otherwise they would plunder his house and carry away his cattle. John Beg seemed very passive to them, and entertained them very sumptuously, until he got them all intoxicated, by strong ale mixed with the juice of nightshade, when he ordered them to be conveyed to the upper apartments of his castle. He then removed his family and furniture, and put them on board a vessel at the water-mouth of Berrydale; and having collected a great quantity of straw and brushwood into the lower parts of his house, he set fire to it, which soon destroyed the robbers, and consumed all the castle excepting a part of the walls. John Beg returned with his family to Sutherland. Antiquities.

The castle of Berrydale, or Berrudale, is remarkable on account of its last inhabitant, who was a giant, called William More. His history is singular.

About the end of the fifteenth century, Hector Sutherland, commonly called Hector More, or *Meikle Hector*, was proprietor of the estate of Langwell. He was descended of the family of Duffus, and resided in a castle on a rock at the water-mouth of Berrydale, the ruins of which are still visible. He built a house at Langwell for his eldest son William, who married a beautiful woman, and resided there. Some time afterwards William's wife was in childbed of her first child, and Robert Gun, tacksman of Braemore, came over the hills to Langwell, accompanied by some of his clan, on a hunting party. Robert Gun proposed to his friends that they would pay a visit to Hector More's son and his young wife; which they accordingly did. Robert Gun, upon seeing the woman in bed, fancied her. Upon their way home, Gun declared to his companions that he would have William Sutherland's wife to himself; and that the only means by Hector Sutherland, a giant.

Antiquities. which he could accomplish his design was to take away her husband's life. His friends, whose consciences were not more strait-laced than his own, having approved of his intention, they accompanied him the next day over the hills, and lay in ambush in the woods near William Sutherland's house, until they observed him come out to his garden, when Robert Gun shot him with an arrow from his bow. They went immediately into his house, took his wife out of bed, and carried her and her infant child in a large basket they had prepared for that purpose to Braemore, where Gun resided. As soon as the mother recovered, she was reconciled to Robert Gun, notwithstanding of his murdering her husband. She begged of him to call her infant son William after his deceased father, though she knew, had her husband been alive, he would have named him Hector after his own father, Hector More. Robert Gun held the lands of Braemore from the Earl of Caithness in tack, but he would pay no rent to his Lordship. After being much in arrear to the Earl, his Lordship sent John Sinclair of Stercock, with a party of men under arms, to compel Gun to make payment; but Gun convened his clan, and they defeated John Sinclair with his party. Several were killed, and John Sinclair was wounded in the engagement. Young William's mother lived the remainder of her life with Robert Gun, and had two sons by him. After these sons had arrived at maturity, young William and they one day went a-hunting; and William being more successful than the other two, killed a roe, which he desired his two brothers to carry home. They objected to this drudgery, and said that he might carry home his own prey himself. But William, who by this time had heard of his father's tragical end, told them, with a menacing aspect, that if they would not carry home the roe he would revenge some of their father's actions upon them; which intimidated them

greatly (though they were ignorant of the cause of his threatening), as they knew he had more personal strength than them both, he being then about nine feet high, and stout in proportion. They accordingly carried home the roe, and told their mother that William had threatened them in such a manner. She communicated this circumstance to their father Robert Gun, adding, that she suspected William had heard of his father's death. Robert Gun, being afraid of young William's personal strength, wished to be in friendship with him, and proposed that he should marry his (Gun's) sister, who resided with them in the character of a housekeeper. William did not relish the match, and would not accept of her. Soon afterwards Robert Gun made a feast at his house, where he collected several of his friends, and contrived to make young William so much intoxicated that he was carried to bed, and Robert Gun put his sister to bed with him. When William awakened next morning, he was surprised to find Gun's sister in bed with him. She told him he might recollect that the ceremonies of marriage passed betwixt them the preceding evening, and that she was now his lawful spouse. He got up in a passion, and declared that he was imposed upon, and that he would hold no such bargain. Robert Gun flattered him, and said, as he was now married to his sister he would make the match as agreeable to him as possible, by putting him in possession of the estate of Langwell; and in order to accomplish his promise, he, with a few of his connections, concealed themselves near Hector More's castle on the rock until early in the morning. When the drawbridge was let down, they forced their way into the castle, and carried Hector More (who was then an old feeble man) out of his castle, and left him in a cot-house in the neighbourhood, where he remained for some little

Antiquities. time, and afterwards went to Sutherland, and passed the remainder of his days with one of his relations, Sutherland of Rearchar.

Robert Gun then returned in triumph to Braemore, and conducted William Sutherland and his espoused wife to their castle, and gave them all possession of the estate of Langwell. William being very much dissatisfied with Robert Gun's conduct, and not liking the company of his sister as a spouse, went and complained of his grievances to the Earl of Caithness; who promised him redress as soon as he returned from the Orkneys, where he was going to quell a rebellion, along with the Baron of Roslin, and wished that he (William), being a very stout man, would accompany him. William consented to do so, and returned to Berrydale to bid his friends farewel before he would go on so dangerous an expedition. Just as he was parting with them at the burial ground on the braes on the east side of the water of Berrydale, he told his friends that he suspected he never would return from Orkney. He then laid himself down on the heath near the burial-ground, and desired his companions to fix two stones in the ground, the one at his head and the other at his feet, in order to show to posterity his uncommon stature; which stones remain there still, and the exact distance between them is nine feet and five inches. Tradition also mentions his height to have been above nine feet. He went with Lord Caithness, &c. to the Orkneys, where he as well as the Earl and his sons were killed. This happened in the year 1580. The cause of the rebellion was this: In the year 1530, King James the Fifth granted the islands of Orkney to his natural brother, James Earl of Murray, and his heirs-male. The inhabitants took umbrage that an over-lord should be interposed between them and the sovereign, and rose in arms, under

the command of Sir James Sinclair of Sandy. Lord Sinclair, Baron of Roslin, and the Earl of Caithness, were sent with a party of men to quell the rebels, but the islanders defeated them; and, as already mentioned, the Earl, with his sons, and William More Sutherland, who accompanied them, were killed. The Caithness men who survived carried back the Earl of Caithness' head to be interred in his Lordship's burial-place in Caithness. Antiquities.

In the parish of Falkirk, in the western part of the county, are several remains of the ancient fortresses or dwellings of the chiefs of this district. The tower or castle of Braal stands on an eminence, at a small distance from the river of Thurso. It is completely square, of a very large area, wonderfully thick in the walls, which are partly built with clay and mortar mixed, and in some parts with mortar altogether. The stairs and conveyances to the several stories are through the heart of the walls. These stories were all of them floored and vaulted with stones prodigiously large, as are indeed most of the stones of the whole fabric. A great part of it still remains; is as upright and firm as ever, and seems, from its structure, to have been very high and stately; and, what is strange, the highest stones seem to be larger than those below. It surely cost immense labour to get some of them up to such a height, especially in those days, when it is to be supposed they had no proper machinery for the purpose. The plummet and rule were undoubtedly well applied in the progress of the work; but there is not the least impression of block or chissel, which shows the great antiquity of it. It was manifestly a place of strength as well as of habitation. A deep large well-contrived ditch secures it from the north. Castle of Braal.

The next piece of antiquity worthy of notice is Dirlet Castle. It stands in a very beautiful romantic spot in the Dirlet Castle.

Antiquities. Highlands called Dirlet, on a round high rock, very steep, almost perpendicular on all sides. The rock and castle hang over a very deep dark pool on the river Thurso, which runs close by its side. On each side of the river and the castle, and very near them, are two other rocks, much higher, looking down over the castle with a stately and towering majesty, and fencing it on these sides. By appearance, as well as by accounts, it was a place of strength in the days of rapine and plunder. For further security, it had the river on one hand, and a ditch on the other, through which the water was conveyed with a drawbridge. The last inhabitant was a descendant of the noble family of Sutherland. He was called in Erse the *Pinder Derg*, that is, the *Red Knight*.

Lochmere Castle. The next in course is Lochmere Castle, about eight miles above Dirlet. It stood just on the bank of the loch, hanging over the first current of the river out of it. In that place the river is very narrow and very deep, and withal very rapid. It is said by report to have been built and inhabited by a personage called *Morrar na Shean*, that is, "the lord of the game or venison," because he delighted in these rural sports. It is said, also, that there was a chest, or some kind of machine, fixed in the mouth of the stream below the castle, for catching salmon in their ingress into the loch, or their egress out of it; and that immediately when a fish was entangled in the machine, the capture was announced to the whole family by the ringing of a bell, which the motions and struggles of the fish set a-going, by means of a fine cord that was fixed at one end to the bell in the middle of an upper room, and at the the other end to the machine in the stream below.

The principal proprietors in this county are, the Earl of Caithness, Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, and Sinclair of Freswick; all of

whom possess elegant mansion-houses, though their vici- Population.
nity is necessarily bleak and naked during a great part of the year, in consequence of the impracticability of adorning them with plantations.

The population stands thus:

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			Total of Persons.
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	
Bower . . .	1287	1592	705	867	880	135	557	1572
Cainsbay . .	1481	1950	900	1086	366	49	1571	1986
Dunnet . . .	1235	1399	589	777	1355	11	—	1366
Halkirk . .	3075	3180	1159	1386	1227	229	1089	2545
Latheron . .	3675	4006	1655	1957	3435	58	119	3612
Olrick	875	1001	533	595	332	66	729	1127
Reay	2262	2298	662	879	1051	37	463	1541
Thurso . . .	2963	3146	1598	2030	1044	572	2012	3628
Wattin . . .	1424	1230	602	644	694	29	523	1246
Wick	3938	5000	1781	2205	2879	1015	92	3986
Total . .	22215	24802	10183	12426	13263	2201	7145	22609

Among the hills or high country on the borders of Language.
Sutherland the Erse language is spoken; but in the rest of the county the language of the people has always been the same with that of the south of Scotland, unless in so far as distinguished, in a trifling degree, by a provincial accent. The names of places seem to be derived from the Norwegian language. *Ster*, which in that language signifies "an estate," is the terminating syllable of a great number of places, such as, Ulbster, Stempster,

Language. Bindster, Scrabster, Bilbster, and a great variety of others. The names usually consist of two syllables, of which the first was perhaps the name of some early or distinguished possessor. Where *wick* is the terminating syllable, there is always in its vicinity an opening of the coast larger than a creek, but smaller than a bay, whose two containing sides form an angle similar to that of the lips terminating in the cheek, which in the Scottish dialect is termed "the wick of the mouth." In Orkney there are a great number of places whose terminating syllable is *wick*; and in Caithness, too, they are all upon the coast, and characterised by an opening in the rocks of the figure now described. Freswick in Caithness is the *green wick*, from *frish* signifying *green*, and the figure of the coast in its vicinity.

ORKNEY ISLANDS.

General description.

THE Orkney and Shetland Isles form together one county, which sends a representative to the British parliament We shall consider first the Orkneys, and afterwards the more northern group of islands called the Shetland Isles.

The islands that compose the group known to the ancients by the name of *Orcades*, and styled by the moderns the Orkney Isles, are situated in the Northern Ocean, between the coast of Caithness and Shetland; from the former of which they are distant only about four, and from the latter nearly twenty leagues. From observations that have been taken with sufficient skill and accuracy, the latitude of Kirkwall, the centre, has been found to be 59° 0′ north, and the longitude 2° 30′ west from the meridian of Greenwich. Of those that are inhabited some are so small as not to exceed a mile in length; whereas the mainland or principal island extends to nearly thirty. They are separated from one another by portions of water denominated sounds, friths, or ferries; some of which are only a mile broad, and others more than five. Though thus closely connected together, the whole of them are of considerable extent; for from the south-west to the north-east, the points farthest removed from each other, the distance is not less than seventy miles, and they are upwards of forty in the other direction.

Number The islands are sixty-seven in number, twenty-eight of which are inhabited; the remaining thirty-nine, known also

General Description.

under the name of *holms*, are dedicated to the pasturing of a few cattle, sheep, or rabbits, and are in general too small, and too much exposed to the violence of the weather, to be fit for human habitation. They have probably derived their general name from *Cape Orchus*, the ancient name for "Dunnet Head" in Caithness, and have come to be denominated "Orkney Isles," or the "Isles of Cape Orchus." *Or*, in Gaelic, signifies a "whale," and *inses* an "island." These large animals are frequently seen there at present, and probably were more frequently observed in ancient times, before they had become in so great a degree the prey of commercial nations. Pliny also gives the name of *orcæ* to some species of huge marine animals. These islands, when compared with the barren wilds of some of the Shetland isles to the north, or even with the lofty mountains and bleak marshy plains of Sutherland, assume, upon the whole, a favourable appearance. The surface of the whole of them follows, in general, the inclination of the surface of the greater part of the north of Scotland, being lofty towards the west, and declining towards the east. This appears to arise from the inclination of the mineral strata, which here in general, and even perhaps throughout the whole globe, descend towards the east, and ascend towards the west. Hence, on the west coast of the Orkney Isles, the land is so elevated as, with a few interruptions, to form itself into a range of hills, not high indeed, but much more so than what is generally met with in the interior of the country. These hills, the highest of which does not exceed 1200 feet, do not always run in the largest direction of the islands, but frequently stretch across them; and while their sides that face the Western Ocean are bold and steep in the extreme, their opposite sides, for the most part, shelve away into plains of considerable extent with a gentle declivity. The shores in

Inclination of the strata.

the western quarter are in many places bounded by rocks awfully majestic. In some places they remain entire; in others they have yielded to the force of the billows and the ravages of time; and are consequently shattered into a thousand different shapes, altogether forming a scene highly interesting. Climate.

It is not improbable that, at some remote period, these islands have been joined to the mainland of Scotland of the county of Caithness; and it is no difficult matter to account for their separation, and the territory being broken into small parts or islands. We have already remarked, that in Caithness there are many caverns on the coast. These are formed by the violent action of the waves of the sea upon the soft strata which it finds in some places. In this way the sea cuts mines very far into the land; and undoubtedly, in the course of ages, has in this way cut off large portions of the continent, and thereby formed many of the isles which diversify the face of the ocean.

In these islands the south-west wind is most prevalent; and as it comes from the mountainous tract of the West Highlands, brings, as might be expected, not only the most frequent but the heaviest rains; and also raises the tides, through the whole shores, to their greatest elevation. From the south-east, too, the winds are very frequent, and sometimes even stormy. In the spring, summer, and harvest months, while these winds prevail, the weather is sometimes dry and cold, sometimes damp, and not unfrequently thick, dark, and foggy; and when this last kind of weather continues for any time, it seldom fails to have a manifest effect in depressing the animal spirits, and generating colds, coughs, sore throats, and similar complaints, that are the effects of such a state of the atmosphere. On the other hand, the north-west, north, and north-east Climate.

Climate. winds, bring for the most part cold, dry, wholesome weather; and in the same degree that the others relax and sink, these brace and elevate the animal system. The east and west winds are neither remarkable for their strength nor their long continuance; nor, indeed, are they marked with any striking peculiarity. Seldom do calms, for any length of time, prevail here; and the winds, from whatever quarter they blow, and in whatever season, are seldom or never tempestuous, but often loud and strong; and this circumstance has an evident tendency to render the climate salubrious. Through the whole islands rains fall in considerable quantity; but on the west coast, on account of its superior height, by far the greatest quantity falls. During the winter, when in other parts of the kingdom the land is locked up in frost, and deep buried in snow, rains more commonly prevail here, and are either so constant, or recur so soon, that they render it inconvenient to travel either by land or water; and, besides drenching the cultivated fields, and hurting the roots of the grass, introduce diseases among sheep, horses, and black cattle. Snows are neither so frequent, nor in such quantity; but they come with considerable violence, and generally from the north-west and south-east quarter of the heavens; and though what falls in the course of a year may not be much short of the quantity in other northern districts, it continues only a few days at a time on the surface of the earth, owing perhaps not only to the greater warmth, but also to the vapours that are constantly rising from the sea, and floating in the atmosphere.

A peculiarity of the climate, with respect to the season of snow and hail, merits some attention. Some parts of the month of June, which in Britain is well known to be of a pleasant and genial warmth, is here not only often colder than the preceding months, but almost as much so as any

winter month. For about two weeks, and even sometimes more, about the middle of that month, the wind blows from the north strong and piercing, accompanied with snow and hail showers, which drive domestic animals to seek shelter; clothe the fields with a dreary aspect, by checking the progress of the young plants, and blasting their buds and their blossoms, and to a stranger would seem to threaten the islands with famine. As soon as that period is past, the wind veers round, warm showers succeed, which revive the tender herbage, that now recovers its former bloom and verdure; the whole tribe of animals again rejoice; and the heart of the husbandman is gladdened with the prospect of future plenty. The cause of this extreme, and seemingly unnatural cold, evidently is the dissolving of the immense fields of ice in the Northern Ocean which happens at that season, and the consequent evaporation. About forty years ago the north wind wafted over the ocean, what is still recollected by the old people by the name of the black snow, which at the time struck the inhabitants with terror and astonishment. It was afterwards known that an eruption of Mount Hecla in Iceland had at that time occurred; and it is probable that this snow had derived its hue from the smoke sent forth by the volcano, or by the combustion of the substances consumed by the melted matter which it cast forth. It is known that the ashes cast forth by Etna and Vesuvius have been carried by the winds to the banks of the Nile.

Climate.

Black snow.

Thunder and lightning are seldom observed here in summer, even in the hottest weather, but most commonly in winter; not, indeed, when the temperature is mild and the sky serene, but when the elements are in commotion. When it blows, rains, hails, or snows, thunder and lightning are frequently the consequence. To whatever cause we may ascribe their appearance at this season, it seems

Climate. to have no influence in rendering them either more violent or more destructive. They are less so here than in other places. They are not accompanied with hailstones of such vast magnitude; nor have they such a tremendous glare, nor such loud and awful peals, as in more southern climates.

Notwithstanding these irregularities, the climate possesses one quality superior to what is found in more favoured countries. As the islands stretch far to the north, it might have been expected they would have experienced all the inconveniences that arise from the extremities of heat and cold that are felt under the same parallel in either the old or the new continent. This, however, is by no means the case; for while the inhabitants of Hudson's Bay and St Petersburgh are alternately panting with heat, or shivering with cold, the inhabitants of the Orkneys enjoy a temperature comparatively mild and moderate. In proof of this, it may be observed, that the medium heat, as appears by the springs, amounts to forty-five degrees; and the whole range between the extremes of the cold in winter and heat in summer is from twenty-five to seventy-five degrees of Fahrenheit's thermometer. The range of the barometer is three inches. Hence the few epidemical disorders which occur as the consequence of extremes of temperature, the good health and vigour which the people often enjoy to an advanced age, and the instances that are sometimes met with of longevity.

Around their whole coasts, the land, with a few exceptions, may be descried at the distance of ten leagues, where the water is in depth fifty-two fathoms. So near the shore as one league, the depth of water is between forty and fifty fathoms; but on the opposite side of the group, at the same distance from land, the depth of the water does not exceed thirty-two fathoms. The flood-tide, in most places, comes from the north-west; and when

no obstacles from land, rocks, or shallows, intervene, directs its course to the east, south-east, or south, according as it is new made, half run, or approaching to still water. At full and new moon it is high water about half an hour after nine, when the ordinary spring tides rise eight feet perpendicular, and the extraordinary ones fourteen; and at the quadratures the usual neap tides rise three and a half, and such as are uncommon above six feet in height. The greatest rapidity of the spring tides, even in those channels where they run quickest, is nine miles in an hour; and the neap tides have only about a fourth part of that velocity. Climate.

If these spring tides be either at their greatest height or their lowest, the water continues still for the space of only half an hour, and in the neap tides it remains one hour and a half. From whatever quarter ships come, there is almost at all times an easy and ready access to such as are acquainted with the proper channels: and as soon as they have got within the precincts, however stormy the weather may be, or however shattered their condition, little or no difficulty will arise to their finding an excellent harbour. For one part of the year, the night is nearly as fit as the day for entering the harbours; for so far do the islands extend to the north, and such is the effect of having no land immediately beyond them, that the twilight is in general so bright, for two months in the summer, as to enable a person, with the ordinary powers of vision, to read in the house at midnight with the utmost facility. In winter, indeed, the sun is only four hours above the horizon; but neither does the darkness, even at that season, either much retard or endanger the entrance of ships, or their sailing among these islands; for the moon, from the reflection of the water, shines with such an uncommon de-

Climate.

gree of splendour, that not only the little islands, but even the rocks and tides, are almost as conspicuous in the night as in the day. But even in the long nights, and when the moon does not shine, light from a different source seasonably arises to facilitate navigation, by dispelling the darkness that would otherwise overspread these coasts. This is the aurora borealis, now very improperly denominated the northern lights, since by late discoveries they have been found to belong equally to both hemispheres. Here they happily appear, both more frequently, and with greater splendour, than in most other regions; for during the harvest, winter, and spring months, they arise almost every unclouded night, and often shine with the most magnificent brilliancy. The light of the moon at her quadratures sometimes, on such occasions, scarcely equals them in illuminating the friths and the islands.

Aurora borealis.

Between the setting of the sun and the close of the twilight, they commonly make their first appearance in the north, issuing, for the most part, from behind the clouds, like a fountain of pale light, the form of which is undefined; and they continue in this state, a little above the horizon, sometimes only for a short period, and at other times for the space of several hours, without any motion that can be discovered. They form themselves one while into an arch, the height of which is about thirty degrees, and its breadth about sixty; and the pillars on which it is supported several times broader than the rainbow; and so long as they retain this shape they are without any sensible motion. At other times they extend farther over the heavens, rise much higher, assume a greater variety of shapes, and discover a dusky hue, with a motion that is slow but perceptible. Very often they exhibit an appearance quite different, and spread themselves over the whole heavens, diffusing every where a surprising degree of light, and exhibiting the most beautiful phenomena.

Their motion, in this case, is in various directions, extremely swift, and as it were in separate columns, resembling somewhat the evolutions of a great army. Their lower extremities are distinctly defined, and deeply tinged with the colours of the rainbow; but their upper ones are tapering and less marked. In several places, at once, they kindle into a blaze, dart along in almost all directions for some seconds at a time; and then, as if by the strength of their exertions they had spent their force, they are extinguished in a moment, leaving a brown tract in the sky behind them. Near the place where they disappeared, in a short time they flash out anew, and with equal rapidity trace the same path in similar motions, and again expire in the same manner. Thus they often continue for several hours together, to the great satisfaction and amusement of the spectators on land, and advantage of the mariner, when they gradually die away, and leave through the whole heavens a colour resembling that of brass. If the night be uncommonly still, and their motions very rapid, a whizzing noise has been thought to have been distinctly heard from them at various intervals. This beautiful coruscation, which has never yet been satisfactorily explained, is said to have appeared much seldomer eighty or ninety years ago than it does at present. Aurora Borealis.

The hills composing the rugged tract that skirts the western coast, as well as those that intersect the Mainland, and occupy some of the other islands, are seldom single and detached, but for the most part formed into ridges of some extent, with small intervening valleys; and their tops, instead of rising high into a conical form, are generally either flat or rounded. Some few of them are almost entirely covered with verdure. The bottoms of most of them consist of corn fields, interspersed with patches of rich old grass, excellently fitted for feeding black cattle. The

Soil. soil consists of sandy or clayey loam. Their sides produce an excellent mixture of heath and grass for sheep-pasture, on a thin stratum of peat-moss; while their tops are usually brown, on a bottom of peat-moss, clay, or gravel. There are spots on some of them delightfully romantic, where the attention is arrested, and the ear pleased, with the murmurs of the rills; and the eye feasts on flowers that rear their heads, and shed their fragrance, amidst various kinds of shrubs.

These islands contain almost every variety of soil; and these varieties are so intermixed that scarce any one farm is in this respect uniform. The soil is in general of no great depth, and a considerable proportion of the surface consists of a mossy soil, mixed with other materials. All the soils are thin or shallow, being seldom more than one or two feet in depth, without any intervening strata; but, with few exceptions, they are uncommonly fertile. The rocks on which the soil rests, and which, in many places, are so soft and friable as to break before the plough, appear, by their decomposition, to prove favourable to vegetation, or to afford food for plants. The strata, consisting of mixtures of clay, sand-stone, and lime-stone, appear mixed with a considerable quantity of bituminous matter, which in all probability gives much assistance to vegetation.

Tenure of lands. Property in land is held in the Orkneys in a variety of forms, which may be reduced to three: 1st, King's lands, which had formerly belonged to the Earls of Orkney, but which had been, in process of time, feued out or granted in perpetuity to vassals, who became bound to pay for ever the old rents, which were usually taken in kind, on account of the scarcity of money. 2dly, Kirk lands, or those which anciently belonged to the bishops and clergy of Orkney, and which are now held by private persons, to whose ancestors they had been granted in feu or perpetu-

ity, for payment in kind of the old rents. And, lastly, there are udal lands, or lands held without any written charters. This tenure occurs nowhere else in the Scottish territory, excepting in Orkney and Shetland, and in the four towns of Lochmaben, which we formerly mentioned. It would appear that the feudal system had never fully penetrated to these northern isles. At the same time, the udallers are few in number; some of them pay a small rent to the crown or church, and some pay to neither. Inhabited Isles.

A few of the larger, and many of the smaller proprietors occupy farms, but the far greater part of the lands is possessed by tenants. Those of the larger farms have generally leases for terms of seven, fourteen, or nineteen years; but by much the greater number of farms are possessed by tenants at will. The size of farms in tillage varies from two acres to two hundred. An average size may be about eight acres in cultivation to each farm.

It would be a fruitless waste of the time of our readers to attempt to give a minute geographical description of each of these remote isles. The chief, as already noticed, is called the Mainland or Pomona. This island is in the centre of the group; and the remaining islands receive the appellation of north or south isles from their position with regard to it. The Mainland, from south-east to north-west, extends not less than thirty English miles, and displays considerable variety of appearance. A ridge of hills, of no great height, rises on its eastern extremity, and stretches westward, with some interruptions, to a considerable distance; after which it turns northward, nearly at right angles, so as to run parallel to the western boundary of the island, from which it is distant about six miles. Along the western boundary run the hills of Stromness and Sandwick. Through this extensive tract the hills are ge- Islands. 1. Mainland, or Pomona.

Inhabited isles.

nerally green on the sides, many parts of which are productive when cultivated. The tops are covered with a mixture of heath and various sorts of grass, and afford a secure haunt for multitudes of moorfowl, as well as pasture for sheep, and black cattle and horses. The breadth of the Mainland is by no means considerable; for, though it reaches nearly sixteen miles on the west side, the east does not extend above five or six; and near the middle it is so narrow as to form a neck of land which comprehends little more than a mile in length, dividing the island into two peninsulas. The spacious and beautiful Bay of Scalpa bounds the one side of this isthmus, and the Bay of Kirkwall the other; and the ground that lies between them is at once so flat, so damp, and in other respects of such a nature, as to render it probable that the sea, some time or other, has occupied the whole space between them. To the eastward of the Bay of Kirkwall is the Bay of Inganess. Advancing from the north, it is so well sheltered from the west winds as to render it an extremely commodious retreat for shipping. Another bay to the eastward advances inland, and forms a large territory, or parish of Deerness, into a peninsula. This bay is also well calculated to afford a retreat for shipping. In this eastern part of the island the soil is in general thin, and the cultivated land lies in a declivity to the south. The houses of the peasantry, however, are neatly built, and their small gardens are usually in good order. In the western part of the Mainland is the great loch of Stennis, rising at the head of the Bay of Kerston, which proceeds from the south. The tide in some measure alternately fills and almost empties it. Its direction is towards the north-west to the extent of five miles. Trout, flounders, and other kinds of fish, are found in it. The village of Stromness is on the south-west quarter of the Mainland,

It would appear that deer have once inhabited this island, as their horns have sometimes been dug up; and, both from tradition, and from the roots of trees and hazle nuts, which are frequently dug up, there seems reason to believe, that at some distant period it was not destitute of woods. Inhabited Isles

Græmsay is one of the southern islands, about a mile and a half south-east from Stromness. It extends from east to west about a mile and a half, and about a mile in breadth. The whole is level, and the soil good; being either used for corn, or suffered to remain in old grass. In the interior parts a bed of slate supports the thin surface. 2. Græmsay.

Another inhabited island is Hoy, separated from Græmsy by a strait of a mile in breadth. It consists of the highest land in Orkney. Almost the whole of it is occupied by three large hills, in the form of a triangle, of which that to the north-east is the largest. Except along the north shores, which are bordered with a loamy soil and a rich verdure, the island has a soil composed of peat and clay, of which the former commonly predominates, black, wet, and spongy. This seems to arise from a greater quantity of rain falling here than in many other parts of the country. The island is chiefly appropriated to the pasture of sheep. On the hills are many alpine plants; and among them some delightful valleys, intersected with rivulets, whose banks are decked with flowers, and sheltered with shrubs, such as the birch, the hazel, and the currant, which are sometimes honoured with the name of trees, because in this particular situation they have risen ten or twelve feet above the ground that supports them. The Wart or Ward-hill of Hoy rises to about a mile in height above the level of the sea. Westward from this hill is a stupendous rock, called the *Old Man of Hoy*. It rises about 1500 3. Hoy.

Inhabited Isles.

feet above the sea, and resembles, at a distance, a monstrous ruin, from the fantastic manner in which its sides and summit have been worn by the dashing of the waves of a tempestuous ocean, or by the action of the winds in this northern climate. Hoy, in former times, produced large birch trees and white hares.

4. Waas. The island of Waas is remarkable on account of its excellent harbours, called Orehope, Kirkhope, and Longhope. It is adjacent to the Pentland Frith. It is in truth a district of Hoy, or peninsula connected with it by a narrow neck of land, and forms the southern part of that island.

5. Russay. 6. Farray. 7. Cavay. 8. Flotay. Russay, Farray, and Cavay, are small islands on the eastern side of Hoy, and support a few persons. Flotay is on the same side of Hoy, and is three miles long and little more than one in breadth. It has a bay called Panhope, well known to mariners. Its western side is covered with long heath, and abounds with moorfowl; the remainder is covered with grass, or cultivated for corn.

9. Ronaldsay. South Ronaldsay is the most populous of the southern division of the islands. It consists of about eighteen square miles; and the arable and grass lands form a larger proportion than elsewhere to the rude ordinary pastures. Much kelp is produced on its shores.

10. Swinna. To the south-west of the former is Swanay, or Swinna, a small island, about a mile long and a mile and a half broad, lying nearly in the middle of the Pentland Frith. It is very barren, but is inhabited by a few families, who gain a livelihood by the wages which the men receive for acting as pilots to vessels passing that dangerous strait. At each side of it are the whirlpools called the *Wells of Swinna*, which are chiefly dangerous in a calm. It is said that, to avoid them, when a vessel is found within the vortex, it is found necessary to throw

out a barrel, or some bulky substance, at the stern of the vessel, whereby to enable her to turn her side to the current, and thereby to stand out of it. In a quick breeze of wind the pools may be passed with little danger. Indeed these currents, like the story of Scylla or Charybdis, appear to have been chiefly rendered formidable by ignorance. A post-office boat, four times in the week, crosses the Pentland Frith from Caithness, and in fifty years no accident has occurred. The case seems to have been very different formerly, as it is said that a Scottish fisherman was imprisoned in Kirkwall, in the beginning of May, for publishing an account of the revolution by which the Prince and Princess of Orange were raised to the throne of the British islands in the preceding month of November; and he would have suffered punishment had not the news been confirmed by the arrival of a vessel. The truth of the story has, however, of late been doubted. Inhabited Isles.

Pentland Skerry is one of two small islands in the Pentland Frith, inhabited by a man and his family who take care of the light-house; the importance of which establishment must be obvious, when it is considered that 3300 ships have passed this frith annually. 11. Pentland Skerry.

Burray is separated from South Ronaldsay by a ferry of a mile broad. It is nearly four miles in length and one in breadth. Potatoes, carrots, peas, onions, cabbage, and turnip, are raised here in greater perfection than in the other islands; and white and red clover abound in the natural pastures. 12. Burray.

Lamon is a small island between Burray and the Mainland. It contains only one family. 13. Lamon.

Copinsay, to the eastward of the Mainland, forms an excellent land-mark for ships. It presents a bold perpendicular front to the German Ocean on the east. It is about a mile in length and half a mile in breadth, and contains two or three families, who rear some corn. 14. Copinsay.

Inhabited Isles.

15. Shapinsay.

Shapinsay is adjacent to the Mainland. On its northern side its surface amounts to about nine square miles. It formerly belonged to the bishops of Orkney. Around the whole island the shores are low, and to a considerable distance inland pretty level, and covered with grass and corn fields. Towards the middle, the land is considerably higher, and exhibits the appearance of a barren waste, fit only for sheep pasture. A small bay is called Grucula, in consequence, according to tradition, of one of Agricola's ships having been stranded here. In fact, some Roman coins have been lately found near the place. Its only harbour is that of Elwick. About 120 tons of kelp are annually burned on its shores.

16 Stronsay.

Stronsay is a pretty large island, rather flat, situated to the east of the former, from which it is divided by a rapid frith of the same name, six miles wide. On that quarter it bounds the group of the Orkney Islands. From an inspection of the map, it appears to be not only curiously indented, but almost cut into three distinct islands, which were formerly so many separate parishes; and this intersection has probably given rise to the name conferred on it by the ancients, of the *Isle of Strand*, or *Stronsay*. Its dimensions are seven miles long and four broad; through the whole it discovers much variety in point of soil and elevation; and while it equals several of the rest in the production of the fruits of the earth, it enjoys one advantage over them in its very convenient situation for an extensive and lucrative fishery. This advantage, however much despised at present, seems to have attracted attention in former times, when the island was considered as of more consequence, on account of its extensive intercourse with the east in the flourishing state of the herring fishery, a pretty extensive one being then carried on in that island. The exact share which the

inhabitants had in that business cannot be now ascertained, but it was probably not very great, as most of the operations were performed by people from the county of Fife, who being called home in the commotions that then shook the kingdom, all fell in the battle of Kilsyth; and this circumstance unfortunately put an end to that promising species of industry. The island has two harbours, or rather places of retreat, for ships; Linga Sound on the west, and Papay Sound on the north-east. Inhabited Isles.

Papay Stronsay is a pleasant little level island, of about three miles in circuit, on the north-east of the former. 17. Papay.

Eday is nearly in the centre of the north isles. It is about five miles and a half long, and nearly one and a half broad. It consists chiefly of hills of a moderate height, affording excellent pasture. It possesses two good harbours or roadsteads, each sheltered by a small islet, where vessels of any burden may ride in safety. The one is called Calf Sound, and the other Fiersness. 18. Eday.

Farey is a small island, distant from the former about two miles to the west, not exceeding two miles in length and one in breadth, rather flat, and covered with verdure. Besides a very advantageous situation for fishing, it has a soil and surface more than sufficient to raise both corn and cattle, in ordinary years, to answer every demand of the inhabitants. 19. Farey.

Sanday, so called from the nature of its soil, is in extent of about twelve miles in length, varying in breadth from one mile or less, in some places, to two or three in others. Its form is very irregular, having many extended points, with bays running a considerable way inland. It lies to the north-east of the isles of Eday and Stronsay, from which it is separated by a channel from two to three miles broad. The surface is low and flat, particularly on the east coast, which not only renders 20. Sanday.

Inhabited Isles

the coast dangerous to mariners, but subjects the island to inundation from a spring tide with a gale of easterly wind. The soil is every where mixed with sand, and when well manured with sea-ware produces as good crops as any island in the Orkneys. The making of kelp is the chief employment of the people during the summer; and no island of the Orkneys, of the same extent of sea-coast, produces an equal quantity with this island. It generally produces 500 or 600 tons; and 620 tons have been made in a season. The two principal harbours are, Kettletofet on the south, and Otterswick on the north side of the island, both pretty safe and commodious.

St. North Ronaldsay.

North Ronaldsay is situated to the north of Sanday, at the distance of two miles, and divided from it by a very rapid and dangerous frith. It contains about four square miles. It is little raised above the level of the sea; and at least 100 tons of kelp are annually manufactured on the shore.

St. Westray.

Westray is of more importance. It lies on the north-west quarter of the whole islands. In form it resembles a cross, the body of which is eight, and its arms about five miles in length. Through this whole extent, which stretches from south-east to north-west, it forms a ridge, low on the shores, and gently elevated towards the middle; and from south to north, on the west side, a range of pretty high hills forms its boundary in that direction. The cultivated lands and the principal grass-pastures are on the east end, and on the north and south shores; a large portion of them are on the south-west, where both are uncommonly fine; and as the waste land lies in the middle of these tracts, what is on the west and north-west is inferior neither in quantity nor quality. The island contains abundance of peat for fuel. Much corn is raised, but of an indifferent quality; but the grass is good; and in the boisterous seas around it, abundance of fish are found. On the east and south are two bays, to which ships retire

in summer; but the only safe harbour is called Pier-o-wall, on the north-west; and this is fit for small vessels only. Formerly it afforded accommodation for ships of much greater burden, and it is sheltered in all directions; but from the blowing of the sand, which of late has been very great, the water has become so shallow, that ships which have occasion to put in here are compelled to anchor in a more open road farther out in the harbour. The blowing of the sand has also spread desolation over some of the most beautiful and best land, not only in this island, but also in Sanday. Inhabited Isles.

Papay Westray is a beautiful little island to the north of the former. It is four miles long and about one mile broad. It is pleasant and fertile, and abounds with fine natural clover. A lake of fresh water adorns its south-east corner. 23. Papay Westray.

Eagleshay is about six miles south of Westray, and divided from it by a tempestuous frith. It is about two miles long and one broad; and in this part of the world is accounted so beautiful, as to have been chosen as a place of residence by some of the ancient counts and bishops of Orkney 24. Eagleshay.

Ronsay lies to the north-west of the Mainland, and is about nine miles long and four broad. The greatest part of it is hill-ground, but it has some stripes of arable land on the coast. It has several small lakes, which give rise to a number of rivulets. It has several safe harbours, and is accounted one of the most agreeable of the Orkney Isles. 25. Ronsay.

Weir is divided from Ronsay by Weir Sound, which is one of the best retreats for shipping in the district. The island is two miles long and one broad, and lies comparatively low. It has abundance of turf for fuel, but its soil is poor. 26. Weir.

En-hallow is only about a mile in circumference. It is 27. En-hallow.

Inhabited Isles.

separated from Ronsay by a reef of rocks, which is covered at high water, and therefore dangerous. It contains two families, who say that neither rats, mice, nor cats, will live in it.

28. Gairsay.

Gairsay is a mile from the Mainland, and two miles south from Weir. It is two miles long and one broad; consisting chiefly of a hill that is steep on the west side, but gradually declines, forming a tolerably fertile district on the east. It has a harbour, called Millburn, on this last side.

29. Damsay.

Damsay is about three miles from Kirkwall. It is scarcely a mile in circuit, and is covered with a thick sward of fine grass, which is used for the pasturage of sheep.

Agriculture.

On the supposition that these islands contain 600 square miles, or 384,000 English acres, which is the calculation made by Templeman, they may be divided in the following proportions:

		English acres.
Heath and moss occupied as common		294,000
Green pasture occupied in common	30,000	
Infield pasture and meadow	30,000	
Arable (including gardens)	24,000	
		84,000
Houses, roads, walls, ditches, &c.		2,000
Fresh water		4,000
		384,000

Live stock.

The breeds of horses, black cattle, and sheep, are all of a despicable sort, and very little attention has been given

Crops.

to their improvement. The grains cultivated in these islands are almost universally grey oats and big or bear, and these in alternate crops without intermission. Bear has succeeded to oats, and oats to bear, invariably, on the same land for centuries. No fallow or other crop has intervened, unless a few acres annually cropped with pota-

toes or flax are excepted. Fallowing is of late a little prac- Agriculture.
tised by the larger farmers, but not at all by the smaller ones, though those who have tried it have found its great advantages. A few acres are annually cultivated for turnip; a crop which seems here to be in its peculiar climate. Upwards of thirty-six tons *per* Scottish acre have been produced in single rows on three feet ridges; many single turnips weighing from fourteen to eighteen pounds. They are scarcely ever injured by the blackfly, or other insects; they are never hurt by frost; if they are ever covered by snow, it is only for a day or two at a time, and if sown late in summer, so that they do not shoot in the early part of the winter, they stand good and firm till the end of April; yet is this crop so little cultivated, that no more than six or eight farmers in these islands have field turnips; and the whole yearly quantity does not exceed thirty or forty acres.

Sea-weed is the manure most used and most prized in Manures.
the islands. Compost dunghils are made, in which dung, ashes, and earth, are mixed with little skill or care. Marl, though frequently to be met with, is little used; and lime has scarcely ever had a fair trial. The land is always manured when bear is to be the crop, but never for oats.

The Scottish plough, of a small size, is in common use. Implements.
A plough of a very peculiar construction, with one stilt, without either ground wrist or earth board, was the only instrument of tillage in these islands a century ago, and still continues in common use in some parishes. In shallow or rocky ground it is found to answer better, as it is a much cheaper instrument than the other; to which nevertheless it is now generally giving place. Small two-wheeled box-carts are in common use, drawn by two oxen or one horse. The common harrows are very small and light, often with wooden teeth, even where the soil is strongest. The roller is little used, and not at all by the small-

Obstacles to Improvement.

er farmers. Horses and oxen are both used for draught; the former more commonly for the plough, and the latter for the cart.

The precariousness of the climate occasions great variations in the seed time and harvest. Oats are sown from the 12th of February to the 20th of April; bear from the 1st of May to the 10th of June. In the earlier seasons, harvest begins in August and ends with September; sometimes the crop is not got in before the middle of November. In backward seasons, the crop of grain is always more or less damaged by the sea spray, and commonly shaken by high winds. The first is sometimes the cause of almost total destruction to the grain; changing it from fresh green in one day's space to withered white, from which it recovers no more.

Obstacle to improvement.

The great obstacle to the improvement and value of these islands results from a circumstance which has been explained by Colonel Thomas Balfour, in a statement published by Sir John Sinclair. It is to be observed, that Charles the First, most impolitically, granted to the Earl of Morton the rights and property belonging to the crown over these islands. The grant was afterwards set aside, but the union parliament restored it; and it has since been sold to another family. Colonel Balfour observes, that "the situation and climate of these islands are, we must observe, much better suited to the cultivation of grass and green crops in general than of corn. The crop of the latter is often scanty, and always of mean quality, from want of ripening heats; and is often partially, sometimes almost totally, destroyed by the spray of the sea, in the manner already mentioned, which, while it probably indurates the soil, gives a fatal check to the ripening of the grain. The great obstacle to the agricultural improvement of these islands is a circumstance which forces upon us the attempt to cultivate grain, with-

out the hope of doing so with advantage. Our agriculture is a constant endeavour to avoid a loss, in which we are not animated by any expectation of positive profit. Obstacles to improvement.

"The property of these islands is burdened with payments to the crown, partly as coming in place of the king of Norway (to whom these islands paid tribute till the year 1468), partly as having acquired right to lands and feu-duties by subsequent purchases and forfeitures; and, lastly, as coming in place of the bishop of Orkney. This tribute, and the rents or feu-duties of the crown lands, are almost all payable in kind, chiefly in oat-meal, big, or malt. The sum of those payable to the crown, or its donators, is greatly beyond the average surplus of the grain produced in these islands after supplying the inhabitants. The crown's right to all but the bishopric is now, by an irredeemable grant, the property of a subject, who has also of late obtained a temporary right to the crown rents and feu-duties of the bishopric. In virtue of both these rights (which were never before united in the same person), a legal title is given to exact from the tenants and proprietors of these islands a quantity of grain, which it is always difficult, often impossible, for them them to deliver; and for the deficiency there is no established rule whereby to limit the extent of price which may be exacted. These exactions are always so high, that the part unpaid in kind is much more productive to the holder of these estates than an equal quantity of what is paid. He charges always a higher price for defeiencies than he gets for the grain delivered in kind. Our grain or meal, in quality inferior to that of every country, is nevertheless often estimated by the cost of what we are forced to import, much superior in intrinsic worth, and loaded with freight charges and mercantile profits; so that when we cannot deliver our crown rents in kind, as is com-

Obstacles to Improvement.

monly the case, we are subjected to the payment of a price, the extent of which, in a great measure, depends on the arbitrary will of an individual who holds a monopoly of our corn. Such being the situation of the property of these islands, we are naturally led to use every exertion that tends to keep us out of the reach of the arbitrary exaction of penal prices. Accordingly, we are maintaining a struggle with nature, with climate and situation, as constant as it is unprofitable for the production of grain, to the exclusion of those crops and modes of culture to which our climate, situation, and soil, are so happily adapted. It would be vain, say the most enlightened of our proprietors and farmers, to raise other crops than bear and oats, though apparently such other crops would be much more profitable; for these profits would not accrue to us. They would be all insufficient to satisfy the additional price which would be exacted for deficiencies in payment of crown rents in kind, when, by cultivating less grain ourselves, we should be obliged to pay in the valuable grain of other countries, or, what is tantamount, to pay the price which such superior grain would cost in our market.

"It is easier, in this case, to discover the disease than to point out a remedy, which would at the same time be effectual, and acceptable to the parties concerned. A conversion of the crown rents into money is the obvious cure. But with respect to that part of the crown rents which is now the property of a subject, this cure cannot be applied without the intervention of the legislature, even if the parties were agreed, as that estate is held under a strict entail. Respecting that part which is still the property of the crown, as coming in place of the bishop of Orkney, the remedy is easy. It can only be accounted for on the supposition that our particular situation is unknown or un-

attended to by his Majesty's ministers, that a large and populous district remains exposed to be harassed by exactions as unprofitable to the public as they are burthensome to the islanders. They suffer greatly, perhaps irremediably, by that irredeemable grant already mentioned, which, by interposing a subject betwixt them and the crown, has made their situation much worse than that of other crown vassals. They surely seem to have every claim of justice on their side, and public expediency appears to demand, that what still remains the property of the crown should be applied for their indemnification, and not made an instrument of their farther oppression in the hands of any individual. In order to put an end to the monopoly of corn in these islands, the duties still belonging to the crown, in as far as they are payable in kind, should be leased or conveyed to the vassals themselves. Obstacles to Improvement.

"The discouragements to profitable agriculture, which our peculiar circumstances occasion, are not the only evils which they produce; they are equally inimical to population, commerce, and manufactures. Proprietors being, in general, liable in payment of more grain than they can spare, every circumstance which tends to increase its price is against their interest. Increased population, trade, or manufactures, which would increase the price of bread, would therefore be prejudicial to the interests of Orkney proprietors in their present situation.

"If the load of feu-duties in kind were removed from our shoulders; if we were at liberty to turn our property to the purposes for which it is best suited, without the certainty that in so doing we labour for another; if the destructive monopoly of grain and meal in our markets were abolished: these islands would soon increase rapidly in population, and become seats of manufactures and commerce, to the great benefit of the neighbouring

Weights. countries, as well as of our own and the public in general. Our climate, unaffected by the extremes of heat or cold, never experiencing severe or lasting frosts, is particularly favourable to many branches of manufacture; and our local situation, with the number of excellent harbours with which these islands abound, would give us great advantages in trade; while the great supply of fish which our seas and sea-coasts afford, if it gave little to commerce, would nevertheless be of great benefit to manufactures, by furnishing wholesome food at a cheap rate."[12]

Weights. The weighing instruments of this territory form also one of its grievances. They were brought from Norway at a very early period. The smallest of these weights, or the one of the lowest denomination, is the mark; twenty-four marks make a setteen, or lispund, or pund bysmer, or span; all of which are equivalent and convertible terms; and though the three latter are now obsolete, they were commonly used in the last age. Six setteens or lispunds make a meil, and twenty-four meils a last. The weighing instruments, which are of the same extraction, are the bysmer and pundler; on the former of which are reckoned marks and setteens or lispunds, and on the latter setteens or meils. The bysmer is a lever or beam, made of wood, about three feet long; and from one end to near the middle, it is a cylinder of about three inches diameter; thence it gently tapers to the other end, which is not above one inch in diameter. From the middle all along this small end, it is marked with small iron pins at unequal distances, which serve to point out the weight from one mark to twenty-four, or a lispund. The body to be weighed is hung by a hook in the small end of the instrument, which is then suspended horizontally by a cord around it, held in the hand of the weigher, who shifts it towards the one end or the other, till the article he is

weighing equiponderates with the large end, which serves it as a counterpoise; and when they are *in æquilibrio*, the pin nearest the cord points out in marks the weight of the subject weighed. The pundler is a beam about seven feet long, and between three and four inches diameter, somewhat of a cylindrical form, or rather approaching to that of a square with the corners taken off; and is so exactly similar to the *Stetera Romana*, or steelyard, as to supersede any farther description. There are two of these instruments in use; the one for weighing bear or big, and the other malt; and hence they are denominated the bear and malt pundlers. The former, though constructed on the same principle, and in the same form, with the latter, is one-third less in its weight; every meil and setteen being but two-thirds of the same denomination on the malt pundler, which is therefore considered as the standard of the bear pundler; and on this account the latter is seldom used. The pundler is the instrument employed for weighing malt, meal, bear, oats, and other gross and weighty commodities; while the bysmer is made use of for ascertaining the weight of butter, oil, salt, wool, cheese, and other articles, which are divided into smaller parts to serve the various purposes of retail in the country. So intricate are these weights, and such is the uncertainty that attends them, that even the natives who use them daily are far from being agreed what should be the exact weight of each denomination. Some contend that the mark, which is the radical weight of which all the rest are multiples, should weigh eighteen ounces; while others assert that it should weigh two-and-twenty. But the most just, as well as the most common, opinion is, that it ought to be equivalent to twenty-two ounces; and of consequence the setteen or lispund should

Weights.

Weights. contain thirty pounds, and the meil eleven stones four pounds, Amsterdam weight.

The original standards of these have been long lost or destroyed; and hence they are fluctuating, and in some measure arbitrary. But what is more extraordinary, a setteen or lispund, on the bysmer, is different from a setteen on the pundler; and all the marks on the former, and the setteens on the latter, are entirely different *from* one another. This occasions some particular weights on each of these instruments to be most advantageous to the seller, as others are to the buyer; and this being known only to those who are much in the practice of weighing, not only strangers, but also the bulk of the people, are unable to guard themselves against imposition. Even those who are most intimately acquainted with the nature of these instruments find inconveniencies arising from the use of them; for on the bysmer, the least deviation from a mark cannot be less than ten ounces; nor can the same deviation from any one setteen, on the pundler, be less than ten ounces: and what is worse, a certain dexterity in those who are accustomed to weigh much, will create the same, if not a greater difference, without any possible remedy. This arises from using as an instrument the steelyard or lever with unequal arms; because, when a slight inclination one way or other is given to it, a large additional weight is necessary to bring it back to the horizontal position.

Litigation about the weights. The weights used in Orkney were at one time made the subject of a violent litigation between the Earl of Galloway and other proprietors of lands in Orkney and the Earl of Morton, as grantee of the crown's rights in Orkney, or successor of the ancient counts of Orkney. The proprietors refused to pay their feu-duties, contending that an extravagant increase had been made to the weights

by which the quantity of the grain or malt payable by them was ascertained, and declared their willingness to pay what they were bound to do, provided no more was exacted than would have been, had the weights been of the same standard as when the islands were ceded to the crown of Scotland. They contended, and with truth, that the laws, language, manners, customs, and particularly the weights, were derived from Norway; and that if a standard of them were anywhere to be found, it was most likely to be in that country. To ascertain the truth as to this point, application was made, through the British consul, to the burgomaster at Bergen, superintendant in chief of the police, and conservator of the standards of the weights and measures of that kingdom, who transmitted a certificate containing the most ample and satisfactory information. In this paper he assures them, that from the earliest times the mark, which had always been considered as the radical weight, contained exactly eight ounces, or half a pound; the setteen, consisting of twenty-four marks, twelve pounds; and the meil, of consequence, seventy-two pounds. Having gained this intelligence, which they considered justly as of importance, they imagined themselves entitled to infer, that the weights in Orkney were the same as in Norway at the time the islands ceased to be dependent on that country. They had evidence, or supposed they had, that the origin of the increase could be traced to the avaricious and oppressive spirit of Robert Stewart, Earl of Orkney; that these weights had received a further augmentation during the despotic reign of his son Patrick; that the farmers of the crown rents, subsequent to the time of these earls, had discovered little inclination to relinquish their interest, so far as to restore matters to their ancient state; and that they had increased considerably even since the Morton

Weights.

Weights.

family had come into possession. To the extravagant height to which they had arrived, they ascribed the state of the islands at that period, which they represented as poor, in comparison of what they had been in former times; that, for want of the means of industry, trade was in a languishing state, fisheries were almost entirely neglected, and agriculture was nearly in the same condition. Many estates, on which large families had lived with comfort, were now fallen into the hands of the superior; the proprietors were not above one-third of the number they were eighty or ninety years before; and even the general population was greatly diminished.

This dispute took place little more than half a century ago. The Earl of Morton insisted, in opposition to the above arguments, that these islands, when let in farm, which they had been for a number of years, yielded a greater rent to the crown than at that time arose out of them to the Earl; and that, in particular, the rental of 1600 exceeded what was then the present one by 11,000 merks, converting both into money at the same price, which certainly could not have been the case, on the supposition of augmented weights. To this they added, that when the islands were ceded to Scotland, they had become the patrimony of the crown, and had been feued out at the full rental; and therefore the present proprietors had no just cause to complain, since their feu-duties were the effects of nothing else but these tenures, which they had derived from their ancestors. He urged still farther, that standards or models of the weights had been kept, beyond the memory of man, by the magistrates of Kirkwall; that no complaints had been made of their increase since the union, when the grant was made in the Earl's favour; that the weights used by the Earl's servants were the same with those made use of over all the

islands, and no heavier than those by which the landlords themselves received their rents in kind from their tenants; and that though it were admitted that they had increased formerly, prescription could now be pleaded in their favour. Plants.

The plea of prescription gained the cause, in the courts of law, in favour of the Earl of Morton; but the disgust produced by this and other disputes induced that family to sell their rights over these islanders to the father of the present Lord Dundas.

The plants found in these islands, considered in a botanical point of view, are nearly the same with those found in other parts of Scotland; nor are the productions of the gardens materially different. In the flower garden, the rose, the tulip, the carnation, the pink, the primrose, with a multitude of other flowers, are cultivated with success; while the kitchen garden produces cabbage, broccoli, cauliflowers, peas, beans, spinage, onions, leeks, parsley, cresses, beets, lettuces, turnips, carrots, parsnips, celery, and artichokes; all of which are good of their kind, but particularly the last is of unrivalled excellence. The fruit garden, though it produces in abundance excellent black, white, and red currants, is very inferior in the apples, pears, plums, cherries, gooseberries, and strawberries that it produces, with respect both to size and flavour. Plants.

Though no trees, excepting under the shelter of a garden wall, and a few in Hoy, as already mentioned, exist in this country, it is certain that they were once here found in abundance. There is a general and strong tradition, that the harbour of Otterswick in Sanday was once a forest, which was destroyed by an inundation. In support of which tradition it may be observed, that roots, or at least parts of trees, much putrefied, half buried in the Trees anciently here.

Animals. sand, and covered with sea-weed, present themselves to view at the low water of spring tides. Deerness is also reported to have been anciently a considerable forest, which a deluge overwhelmed, after it had long been the haunt of deers and other wild animals. But though no such tradition had ever existed, or been supported by such authority, the number of trees that have in many places been occasionally dug up in the peat mosses, from the thickness of a man's leg to that of his body, furnish sufficient evidence of their having been once pretty general in these islands. So far as history throws any light upon the subject, the woods must have been destroyed in very early antiquity; as the Norwegian historian Torfæus represents Einar, Earl of Orkney, who lived early in the tenth century, as instructing his people in the use of turf or peat as fuel, from the want of which they were under great distress, in consequence of the failure of their forests. This invention of peat fires, or the imparting of the knowledge of it to these islanders, gained for Einar a great name, and he is highly extolled on account of it by the scalds or bards of the north. He was ever afterwards honoured with the name of Torfeed or Torfinar.

Animals. The following is a statement of the animals found in these islands, with their ordinary and provincial names:

Fish. The lobster, crab, cockle, razor (called in Orkney the spout-fish), oyster, saurey (in Orkney, gar-fish), grey garnard, diagenet, herring, argentine, grey ling, char, parr, trout, bull trout, salmon, mackerel, fifteen-spined stickleback (bismer), three-spined stickleback (bausticle), urasse (bergie), turbot, sole, flounder, plaise, holibut (turbot), ossali or king's fish, father-lasher (comper), black giby (black rockfishic), spotted giby, viviparous blenny (green bone), spotted blenny (swerdick), purple blenny, tersk (tusker cat-fish), whistle-fish (red-ware fishic), ling,

whiting, pollack (lyth or ly-fish), coal-fish (selloc cu- Animals.
thorseth), haddock, cod-fish, launce (sand-eel), wolf-fish (swine-fish), conger, common eel, little pipe-fish, shorter pipe-fish, longer pipe-fish, sea-snail, lump-fish (paddle), sturgeon, lesser dog-fish (daw-fish), white shark, basking shark (hocmether or hamer), piked dog-fish (hoc), thorn-back, sharp-nosed ray (skate), skate, grampus, porpoise, high-finned cachelot, round-headed cachelot, great-headed cachelot (spermaceti whale), beaked whale (bottle-nose), round-lipped whale, common whale.

Lobsters and crabs are found in great abundance around the rocky shores of Orkney. The cockle is in great esteem, and forms an article of food. These islands being in the tract of the great northern shoal, the herrings, in July and August, enter every bay and creek, and usually depart unmolested, from want of capital, on the part of the natives, to engage in the fishery. The coal, cod-fish, and haddock, are the most common on all the coasts, and next to these the ling, but they are all much neglected. The coal-fish, towards winter, rush into most of the bays, and are caught in myriads for their livers, which furnish oil for the lamps; and their flesh constitutes a valuable article of food to the poor people. The cod is now caught by smacks stationed in the Pentland Frith, as formerly stated under the article Caithness. The skate is found from one to five feet in diameter. The grampus is seen in great numbers in most of these coasts, and very often, in strong and impetuous currents, frisking and tumbling about in a strange and amusing manner. Their size is from fifteen to twenty or even twenty-five feet in length; and they are very thick in proportion. Their appetite is so voracious and their nature so fierce, that they do not hesitate to attack the largest fishes; which is probably the reason that so many whales are embayed, driven ashore, and destroy-

Animals. ed in these islands. Herds of porpoises, to the amount of a hundred and upwards, are often seen. The spermaceti whale, the bottle-nose, and the round-lipped whale, are pretty frequently thrown ashore on this coast. The spermaceti is obtained by opening the skull of that species of whale. The common whale, which is an animal of vast bulk, was formerly often seen here, but has now deserted this quarter, being perhaps driven by the vast resort of shipping to the northern latitudes, where great numbers of them are annually killed.

Reptiles. The common frog and the toad are the only reptiles found in these islands.

Birds. Domestic. The domestic birds are dunghil fowl, and also turkeys, and sometimes peacocks; which last are at times reared about gentlemens houses. Ducks and geese are every where reared in vast numbers. The wild birds, both migratory and indigenous, are as follow:

Wild. Tunstone or sea-dotterel, coot, gannet (called in Orkney the solan or soland goose), shag (scarf), cormorant or corverant (great scarf), golden eye, teal, garganny, urgeon, swallow-tailed shalldrake, pentail duck (callooer coal and candle light), mallard (stockduck), sheildrake (sly goose), tufted duck, eider duck (dunter goose), brent goose (horaw goose), bernacle, goose, wild swan, goosander (harle), storm-finch (alamenti) shear-water (lyre), greater terne (rittoch), pourt gull (hooded crow), turrock (kittywake), common gull (sea-maw), brown and white gull (scorey), herring gull, artic gull (scontialen), great black and white gull (black-backed maw or swait back), red-throated diver (rain-goose), grey-speckled diver (loon), immer (inner goose) great northern diver, black guillemott (tyste), guillemott (skout), little auk, puffin (coulter neb or tommynoddie), auk (baukie), white and dusty grebe (grebe), red scollop-

toed sandpiper, water-hen, land-rail (corn-craik), water-rail, spie (scolder) sea-lark (land-lark), grey plover (plover), dunlin, purr, turnstone, redshank, lapwing, godwit (teenhoap), jacksnipe, snipe (hoarse gouk), curlew (whaap), heron, crested heron, land-martin, house-swallow, white ear (chack), golden-crested wren, wren, redbreast, white wagtail, tit-lark, sky-lark, mountain linnet or twite, linnet, chaffinch, greater brambling (snow-flake), bunting, sparrow, blackbird, redwing, song thrush or throstle (mavis), field-fare, stare, grouse, common pigeon, cuckoo (gouk), jackdaw (kae), Royston crow, raven (corby), white owl, brown owl (howlet), short-eared owl, eagle owl (katogle or stock-owl), merlin, sparrow-hawk, kestrel (wind-cuffer), hen-harrier (katabella), goshawk, kite or gled, gyre falcon, peregrine falcon (falcon), erne, sea-eagle (erne), ringtail eagle (erne). Animals.

The perigrine falcon is found on headlands, or in rocks of extreme difficulty of access; such as the burgh of Birsay, Marwickhead, the stupendous rocks of Hoy and Waes, and Copinsay, the Fair Isle, and Ronsay. Never more than one pair of this species inhabits the same rock; and as soon as the young have acquired sufficient strength to procure subsistence, they are driven out by their parents to seek new habitations for themselves. This noble kind of hawk was in such respect in ancient times, when falconry was the fashion of the day, that it was carried from the most remote rocks to amuse the kings of Scotland. The following clause in the act of parliament for dissolving and disannexing the earldom of Orkney from the crown points out the estimation in which they were held: "That all hawks be reserved to his Majesty, with "the falconers sallaries, according to ancient custom." To this day a hen from every house, or at least a certain number from each parish, are exacted and paid annually Falcons.

Animals. to the royal falconer; and these are said to have been originally intended for food to the hawks of his Majesty.

Eagles. The ringtail eagle is distinguished from the rest of the species by a white circle round the root of the tail, and his legs are covered with feathers down to the feet. He has been known to carry off not only fowls, but lambs and pigs, and, as Sir Robert Sibbald says, young children. The devastation committed by this race of birds upon the sheep, lambs, rabbits, pigs, and poultry, was at one time so great, that a law was found necessary for granting a reward to every person who should destroy an erne or eagle.

Partridges are never found in Orkney. Some pairs carried thither for experiment soon perished. The magpy is never seen there; and if the rook appear, it is supposed to portend a famine. The natives are very dexterous in catching the various sorts of aquatic fowls. Under the rock where the fowls build their nests they bring a boat, provided with a large net, to the upper corner of which are fastened two ropes, lowered down from the top of the rocks by men stationed there; then hoisting up the net till it is spread opposite to the cliffs on which the birds are sitting, the boatmen below make a noise with a rattle, by which the fowls being frightened fly into the bosom of the net, in which they are immediately inclosed and lowered down into the boat. In other parts they practise the method used in Norway, Iceland, and St Kilda; one person being lowered down by a single rope from the top of the precipice to the place where the birds nestle.

Quadrupeds. The following quadrupeds are found here: The shrew-mouse, the mouse, the short-tailed field-mouse or vole-mouse, the field-mouse, the brown or Norwegian rat, the common black rat, the rabbit, the seal or selchy, the otter, the cat, the dog, the hog, the sheep, the ox, and the horse.

The brown or Norwegian rat has been introduced by the shipping that frequent the islands. It has nearly banished the common black rat. The brown rat infests houses, barns, hen-roosts, rabbit-warrens, and, in some instances, even church-yards. Its strength is great. From the tip of the nose to the point of the tail is eighteen inches. Its legs are firm, and its claws and fore teeth sharp. It swims and dives readily. Even when attacked by man it discovers no great alarm. Rabbits so much abound here that their skins form a considerable branch of commerce. Their colour is brown; an entirely white one is rare. They feed on corn and grass, and sometimes on sea weeds and the roots of vegetables. Hawks, eagles, dogs, cats, and otters, prey upon them; yet they multiply prodigiously. No hares, however, exist in these islands, because, from want of woods, and their incapacity of retreating into the earth like rabbits, they find no refuge from their numerous enemies. The seal is very common in the small islands or holms. Some of them measure eight or nine feet from the point of the nose to the claws of the hind legs; and at the shoulders they are nearly as much in circumference. For their skins and oil they are shot, caught in nets, or knocked down with clubs. Hams made of young seals are thought tolerable by the natives. Dogs are here of considerable importance. To a little farmer a dog is more valuable than a horse or a cow, because he has no other mode of protecting his corn.

Animals.

Rabbits.

The species of hog reared here is small, the colour variable; black, brown, dirty white, and tawny; the back highly arched, and covered with a great quantity of long stiff bristles; the ears erect and sharp-pointed; the nose amazingly strong. Its awkward shape and ugly appearance show it to be different from what are met with in

The hog.

Animals almost every part of the kingdom. They are in general as lean as they are ugly, having only a very poor pasture; but when put up to be fed, and furnished with suitable provender, they in a short time, and at little expence, acquire flesh which, for delicacy and flavour, is much esteemed. They are suffered to roam at large through the whole winter and spring, and even sometimes in harvest and summer, and tear up the arable land in winter, and form in it large holes, in which water stands, greatly to its detriment. They also destroy the roots of the grass, and wherever they come greatly hurt the growing corn, and almost extirpate the sown grass, turnips, and potatoes. The inhabitants prefer the flesh of the swine, however lean, to that of almost any other animal. In the spring season, when other meat is scarce, pork, fresh or salted, is very much used by every class of people; and made into ham, it is in great request at all seasons, on account of its truly excellent quality. Even the hair of these animals is an article of considerable value, in as far as it serves as a substitute for hemp in making ropes to anchor fishing boats; for confining in the fields horses and cattle; and for binding, about the middle of the rock, men, in order to let them down in safety to rob the nests, and catch the young, of such birds as build in the shelves of the rock.

Mineralogy These islands contain nothing that is very interesting in a mineralogical point of view. The north isles consist chiefly of strata formed of sandstone, limestone, and clay, which rises in plates or layers. Basaltic rocks and breccia, or plumb-puddingstone, are found in some quarters. The sandstone or freestone, which is very plentiful, is red, grey, or of a dirty white; and so little metallic ore is found to the northward of the Mainland, that the only appearance of that sort consists of two veins of lead in the island of Shapinshay; the one upon the north-east,

and the other on the south-west quarter of the island. In the south isles is some stratified limestone, near Millsetter. It is of a deep blue colour, and contains a considerable quantity of bitumen, or particles of mineral tar and coal culm, from which its colour is derived. In Hoy rich ironstone has been found beneath the sandstone. In the Mainland similar strata are found, usually lying horizontally, or nearly so. Iron pyrites are found near the Bay of Scalpa, and indications of lead ore or galena have been observed at Yasnaby, on the western part of the island. Veins of barytes are seen in the sandstone; and also, interspersed with it, are found galena, ironstone, and calcareous spar. The black craig at Stromness, and an eminence at the head of the Bay of Frith, furnish slates formed of it in great numbers, which, however well they may serve the purpose of roofing in ordinary cases, are much inferior, in point of beauty and duration, to those of Ardesia, that are raised in such quantities for the same purpose at Easdale in the western islands. Near Stromness, also, about a mile to the westward of the town, lead has been found, but not in sufficient abundance to remunerate the working of it. Granite is found in an extent of a few miles around Stromness. In the parish of Birsay, marble and alabaster have been found. Minerals.

A large rock, of a singular character, stands at the western entrance of the Pentland Frith, near Milsetter. It is formed of very mixed materials. Brown, red, grey, white, yellow, and greenish, form its ground; at different parts small rounded pebbles are disseminated through it; fragments of granite and other stones are immersed in it in various places. It contains also veins of white calcareous spar, and towards the eastern part resembles the common pudding-stone. Parts of the rock have been formed into cups, vases, and ornamental trinkets of a fine polish. Singular rock.

Royal Boroughs.

Upon the shores are often found, cast in by the waves in tempestuous weather, many curious marine shells of great variety of form and appearance. But the greatest curiosity which the sea throws on these islands are the *phaseoli*, commonly known by the name of *Molucca* or *Orkney beans*. They are a sort of fruit, of different species, none of which are the produce of the islands or neighbouring places, but are probably of American or West Indian origin. They are found chiefly on the western coasts, and might be gathered in great quantities, if of any value.

Orkney beans.

Kirkwall.

The only royal borough in these islands is Kirkwall. It is the chief town of the county or stewartry of Orkney. It is situated on the Mainland or Pomona, in 0° 25′ west longitude and 58° 33′ north latitude. It is built on a neck of land, washed on one side by the road and bay of Kirkwall, and on the other by a pleasant inlet of the sea, which flows by the back of the gardens at high water. It is nearly a mile long, but is of inconsiderable breadth, having only one street running the whole length, very inconvenient from its narrowness and the badness of the pavement; and towards the street the ends or gables of the houses are placed, which gives it an awkward appearance. Several of the gentlemen of property reside here, and a considerable number of shopkeepers; but the body of the people is composed of tradesmen, boatmen, servants, and day-labourers; and when the population of the country parish, which makes a fourth of the whole, is considered, the united parishes of Kirkwall and St Ola, in which there are two established clergymen, contain, the former, about 2000, and the latter 500 inhabitants. Even in very old times it appears to have been a place of no small consequence; but with the nature of its constitution, and the extent of its immunities and privileges, as enjoyed under a

foreign government, we are in a great measure unacquainted, for want of such documents as might serve for our instruction. Its being a place of much note, gives us reason for believing they must have been more than ordinary; and whatever they were, they were all, soon after the cession of the islands, confirmed to it by a charter from the Scottish sovereign, erecting it into a royal borough, which was corroborated by two succeeding monarchs; and the whole rights and advantages it conveyed were at last solemnly ratified by an act of parliament. The government is in the hands of a provost, four magistrates, a dean of guild, treasurer, and fifteen other members, which together compose a council, that meets at Michaelmas every year for the purpose of alternately electing and being elected; and at other times to collect and dispense the public funds, and transact the other branches of the business of the community. Kirkwall, with the four northern boroughs, Wick, Dornoch, Tain, and Dingwall, choose a burgess to represent them in the British parliament. In this town the sheriff, the admiral, the commissary, and justice of peace courts, are also occasionally convened for the administration of justice; and for the cognizance and regulation of ecclesiastical matters, the three presbyteries of which the provincial synod is composed, and also the synod itself, meet at least once a-year, or oftener according to circumstances. Here is also a customhouse and post-office, and a storehouse, into which are collected the rents, that are mostly paid in kind of both the bishopric and earldom, which are generally let in lease to merchants, who sometimes dispose of them here, sometimes send them out of the country. Kirkwall

There are also in Kirkwall some public buildings. Among these may be reckoned the town-house, supported on pillars forming a piazza in front, and in every respect a neat and Public buildings.

Kirkwall. commodious building; the first story of which is divided into apartments for a common prison, the second for an assembly-hall, with a large adjoining room for the courts of justice, and the highest is set apart as a lodge for the accommodation of the ancient fraternity of free masons. To the west of this, and at no great distance, are the school houses, in which are taught the several branches of English education, Latin, Greek, and mathematics. For nothing, however, is it more celebrated than for its excellent harbour, broad, safe, and capacious, with a bottom of clay so firm, and a depth of water so convenient, as to afford anchorage for ships of a large size and in great numbers.

Whatever antiquity this town itself may plead, it certainly contains some old buildings; two of them nearly in ruins, and one pretty entire, which under this head merit some consideration.

King's Castle. The first of these which we shall mention is that ruin well known by the name of the King's Castle, which appellation it probably received from its having been the ordinary residence of the royal governors, chamberlains, or farmers of the islands, subsequently to their annexation to the crown of Scotland. This fortress, situated on the west side of the principal street, and nearly fronting the cathedral of St Magnus, seems to have been a place of great strength, if we may judge from its extent, the thickness of its walls, and the almost impenetrable nature of its cement. The arms and mitre engraved on a stone on its front have led to the supposition of its having been erected by some of the prelates of this see; but if ever they had a palace on its site, it must have been early, and previously to its erection, which took place in the fourteenth century, by Henry Sinclair, the first of that name that was Earl of Orkney. This ancient fortress, Patrick, Earl of

Orkney, after he had been three years in confinement, commanded his natural son to regain possession of, which, at the head of a considerable force, he accordingly did, and defended it for some time with determined valour. But he was at length overpowered by the king's troops, supported by artillery advantageously placed, when the castle was reduced and almost demolished, and he himself surrendered, on the condition that no torture should be employed to extort from him a confession of his father's guilt. Kirkwall.

Towards the east side of the town, and almost on a line with the cathedral, from which it is not far distant, stands the ancient ruin known by the name of the Bishop's Palace. As early as the middle of the thirteenth century, it seems to have been a place of consequence, as it then accommodated, in one of its upper stories, the celebrated Haco, king of Norway, with his courtiers and servants, after his return from his last expedition. As this palace was evidently built at different times, it now exhibits a motley mixture of various sorts of architecture, and is extensive rather than regular. Towards the north-east corner of the building, and near the church, stood a square tower, called the Mass or Mense Tower, which, from the style of the structure, as well as from its very decayed state, appears to have been of the greatest antiquity. Almost close to it there was another, nearly of the same form, but of smaller dimensions, which seems to have been rebuilt, if not entirely erected, by Bishop Reid, as there were on several parts of it the initials of his name, cut on stone above his mitre and arms. The large round tower, which with these forms a triangle, was entirely a work of his, as a rude statue of him, still standing in a niche in the south wall demonstrates; and these three towers bounded the northern extremity of the structure, which stretched southwards with a breadth of little more than Bishop's Palace.

Kirkwall. twenty feet, while its length in that direction was not less than 100. The walls were high, and formerly may have been much higher, strongly built of grey stone, and the doors and windows of red freestone; the latter of which are some of them small, some large, some high, some low, and are very different in their forms as well as in their dimensions. In short, this spacious fabric, reared perhaps in early times, and since often repaired and altered, has great appearance of irregularity, and is so fast hastening into decay, that in the course of not many years there will scarcely be so much of it left as to mark the place of its foundation.

Cathedral. Amidst not only these, but all the other buildings of this place, the Cathedral of St Magnus raises its majestic head, to strike the eye and excite the admiration of every stranger. It was raised by the superstition of the dark ages, on the same model with those that are so often met with in other parts of the kingdom. Compared, indeed, with the magnificent ruins of the Abbey of Melrose, with the Cathedral of Durham, or the unparalleled Yorkminster, its grandeur and beauty suffer much; but if the time in which it was built be considered, the people by whom, and the place where it was situated, together with several other circumstances, it will strike us with wonder, as a performance that shows equal boldness in the design, and pious industry in the execution.

Ronald Count of Orkney, some time before the middle of the twelfth century, founded it in honour of his uncle St Magnus, to whom it was dedicated. Dr Stewart, a reverend prelate in the time of James the Fourth, added three pillars to the east end of it, with a fine Gothic window, which for beauty is far superior to any other in the building; and Dr Reid, another prelate, in the reign of the unfortunate Mary, added as many to the west end, which, on account of his death perhaps, never were

finished; and are therefore, in point of elegance, not only inferior to the former, but to those in the rest of the structure. As to its dimensions, the body of the building stretches in a line from east to west 236 feet, its breadth through that extent amounts to 56; the arms of the cross are 30 feet long and 33 broad; the height of the main roof is 71 feet; and from the level of the floor to the summit of the steeple is nearly 140. The roof, which is vaulted with a number of Gothic arches, is supported by 28 pillars, 14 on each side; besides four, of uncommon strength and beauty, that serve to support the spire; and, while the rest of the pillars are only 15 feet, these are 24 in circumference. The present spire, however, is low and paltry, being built in the room of one that was burnt or struck down by lightning, which in all probability was of such a large size as to require pillars of that solidity to support it. It contains an excellent chime of bells, which are said to have been a donation from Bishop Maxwell. The east window, which in point of size and symmetry, excels all the rest, is 12 feet broad and 36 in height, including one at the top, which was called a *rose window*, 12 feet in diameter. In the south arm of the cross there is another rose window of the same dimensions; and in the west end of the church there is a third window, constructed on the model of that on the east end, but far inferior to it both in size and proportion. In short, though built at different times, and by different persons, this cathedral must be admitted to be an edifice, not only grand and simple, but also wonderfully regular. Fortunate in its remote situation, and in the disposition of the people, it escaped the intemperate rage of the reformers, who razed to the foundation many a noble structure of the same kind; and remains entire, to this day a monument of the exalted ideas of the illustrious founder, and a superb ornament of these islands. Kirkwall.

Village. Much care and expence have been bestowed for preserving it in that state.

Stromness. The village of Stromness is situated in the south-west corner of the Mainland. It is a considerable village, possessing an excellent harbour, and enjoying some foreign and coasting trade. The entry to the harbour is from the south, and is about a quarter of a mile broad. There is a sand-bank on the west side of the entrance, which is not dangerous, and two small islands or rocks on the east side, which point out the entrance. The harbour is well sheltered from all winds, and affords safe anchorage for vessels of upwards of 1000 tons burthen. The bay is not above a mile long and half a mile broad, but is one of the safest harbours in the northern parts of the kingdom. Very large vessels usually anchor in Cairston Road, on the outside of the small islands; but there the tide is stronger, and the waves, especially with a south wind, very impetuous. The town of Stromness, in the beginning of the last century, was small, and much hampered in its commerce by the neighbouring royal borough of Kirkwall, which acting upon an act of parliament of William and Mary, that denies the benefit of trade to all other places except royal boroughs, exacted from the town of Stromness a share of the cess or burdens to which Kirkwall was liable. The town of Stromness refused to pay the exaction, and was nearly ruined by the expences of the process before the Court of Session and the House of Lords; but in the year 1758 it was finally settled in favour of Stromness; and since that time its trade and commerce have greatly increased.

The inhabitants are tradesmen, shopkeepers, sailors, shipmasters, pilots, and small proprietors of lands, who are in general an industrious and enterprising people; and in point of comfortable living, social spirit, and hospita-

lity to strangers, are not inferior to those of the same rank in any similar situation throughout Scotland. This town bears every mark of having been constructed by a sea-faring people. The houses next the bay have each a quay, projected into the sea, for the accommodation of boats, and the landing of goods. But while much labour has been bestowed to render the town of easy access from the sea, they seem not to have thought access from the land of any importance. In many places the streets are so narrow and crooked that a wheel-carriage could not find its way through them. Long has their harbour been a place of great resort for shipping. Formerly, that is, 300 years ago, ships of different nations, and particularly French and Spanish, in great numbers, occasionally put in there, allured by the excellence of the accommodation. It appears, however, that the ships that touch there in a year at present do not, on an average, amount to above 320; whereas formerly they doubled, and perhaps tripled, that number. To account for their decrease, it may be observed, that the Pentland Frith, which is the most direct passage for the trade in this quarter, has been by a nautical survey, the erection of a light-house, and the experience of mariners, divested of almost all its terrors; and in case of contrary winds, the noble harbour of the Long Hope is near and easy of access; so that vessels now generally prefer the direct course through the Frith to the more circuitous one by Stromness. Stromness.

These islands possess very numerous remains of an extremely remote antiquity. On all the shores and headlands are found numbers of those buildings which we mentioned under the head of Caithness, and which have been denominated *Picts houses*. They are so numerous on the shores, and in the country, as to demonstrate that they had once been of general use among the inhabitants of the Antiquities. Picts houses.

Antiquities. isles. One of them, at Quarterness, has been minutely described in a late History of the Orkney Islands by Dr Barry; and as it may serve as a specimen of the rest, we shall here insert it. The building alluded to is "situated on a gentle declivity, under the brow of the hill of Wideford. It looks towards the North Isles, has a full view of the Bay of Frith, and the pleasant little island of Dansey, from which it is not far distant, and lies little more than a mile west from the road or harbour of Kirkwall. Like the rest, it bears externally the form of a truncated cone, the height of which is about 14 feet, and the circumference at the base 384; but whether, like them also, it be surrounded by one or two circular walls, the quantity of rubbish prevented us from discovering, though that it is so is very probable. In one respect it differs from most of them, as it stands alone, and at a distance from the shore; whereas, in general, they are situated on the shores of the sea, and several of them at no great distance from, and in full view of, one another, as if they were some way or other connected, or had been intended, for mutual communication.

"Internally it consists of several cells or apartments; the principal one of which is in the centre, twenty-one feet six inches long, six feet six inches broad, and eleven feet six inches high, built without any cement, with large flat stones, the one immediately above projecting over that below, so as gradually to contract the space within, as the building rises, till the opposite walls meet at the top, where they are bound together by large stones laid across, as if it were to serve for key-stones. Six other apartments of an exactly similar form, constructed with the same sort of materials, and united in the same manner, but of little more than half the dimensions, communicate with this in the centre, each

by a passage about two feet square, on a level with the floor; and the whole may be considered as connected together by a passage of nearly the same extent from without, which leads into this chief apartment. So far as can now be discovered, there does not appear ever to have been, in any part of the building, either chink or hole for the admission of air or light: and this circumstance alone is sufficient to show that it had not been destined for the abode of men. The contents were accordingly such as might have been naturally expected in such a gloomy mansion. None of those things which have been discovered in similar places were found here; but the earth at the bottom of the cells, as deep as it could be dug, was of a dark colour, a greasy feel, and of a fetid odour, plentifully intermingled with bones, some of which were almost entirely consumed, and others had, in defiance of time, remained so entire as to show that they were the bones of men, of birds, and of some domestic animals. But though many of them had nearly mouldered into dust, they exhibited no marks of having been burnt; nor were there ashes of any kind to be seen within any part of the building. In one of the apartments an entire human skeleton, in a prone attitude, was found; but in the others the bones were not only separated from one another, but divided into very small fragments. Antiquities.

GROUND PLAN OF THE PICTS HOUSE.

Largest Apartment. [No. 1.

	Feet.	Inch.		Feet.	Inch.
Length	21	6	Length	8	11
Breadth	6	6	Breadth	3	6
Height	11	6	Height	6	8

Antiquities.

No. 2.

	Feet.	Inch.
Length	7	2
Breadth	3	9
Height	8	7

No. 3.

	Feet.	Inch.
Length	10	0
Breadth	4	1
Height	8	6

No. 4.

	Feet.	Inch.
Length	0	9
Breadth	4	4
Height	8	1

No. 5.

	Feet.	Inch.
Length	10	7
Breadth	4	1
Height	7	6

Passage into the Great Room.

No. 6.

	Feet.	Inch.
Length	9	5
Breadth	4	5
Height	7	9

No. 7.

	Feet.	Inch.	
Length	22	0	
Breadth	1	9	
Height	2	0,	as far as we could go for rubbish.

"The passages from the great room to the smaller ones were in breadth and height about the same as No. 7. and their length (which was the thickness of the wall) about three feet seven inches.

"Circumference of the building is sixty-four fathoms.

"N. B. Above the entrance into No. 4. there was a sort of square recess in the wall.

"But what use could be made, or what purpose was intended to be served, by piles of such a form, of such a size, and in such situations?

"Neither the number of the whole, nor the quantity of accommodation in each, will suffer us to entertain a rational belief that they were the first rude attempts to obtain permanent places of abode, and served the inhabi-

tants at large as ordinary habitations. Little better are they calculated, in appearance, to serve the purpose of storehouses, which indeed, in that age, would not be deemed necessary. That they were not the residence of the rich among that celebrated people, may be surmised from their darkness, from the want of windows from without, their dampness on account of the thickness of the walls, and the air having little access or free circulation; and particularly, because the apartments are so small, that a person could never stand, and indeed not even sit upright; and if this had not been the case, they do not contain room sufficient to accommodate such families with their servants and dependents. It is true, indeed, a celebrated modern antiquary, Mr Pinkerton, to whose opinion, in a matter of this kind, we are disposed to pay the utmost deference, has imagined, that from their being called *Duns* in the Highlands, and several of them being sometimes found together in glens and sheltered places, they have been the winter retreats of the opulent, to which, in that season, they had recourse, for mutual security, friendship, and conversation. But this could not have been the case in general, since in Shetland they commonly stood single, either on the high hills, or on the brink of stupendous rocks skirting the islands; and in Sutherland, Caithness, and this country, at no great distance, and in full view of each other, on the shores, and in exposed situations." Antiquities.

Dr Barry concludes, from a review of their different sites, singly and in relation to one another, their form, their dimensions, and internal structure, that they served the purpose of watch-towers to guard against surprise from an enemy; of places to secure military arms and other precious articles; and of garisons to prevent hostile boats from landing.

Antiquities. It seems probable that the upper part of the building already described may have been demolished; that the inhabitants resided there; and that the lower cells which remain were appropriated to the purpose of serving for storehouses of provisions, or repositories of arms or other valuable objects. The circumstance of human bones being found divided into fragments, suggests the horrid idea that the owners of these buildings may have been cannibals. The same cells might also at times become places of confinement for prisoners. All these buildings have been reared with a singular degree of care, and even skill. It is impossible to observe without astonishment the accuracy with which undressed stones have been brought into contact with each other, the cavities of one being filled by the swellings or protuberances of another. The stones, also, are so laid as to overlap and bind each other, in so much that each particular stone bears its share, or is pressed upon by the whole weight of the incumbent building. The curvature, also, of the walls, externally and internally, is made to correspond with such singular accuracy as would render the imitation of it difficult to modern artists.

In various quarters of the islands are also found a class of antiquities, of which it is not easy to conjecture the origin. These are the huge standing stones, one or more of which may be seen in most of the islands. They are commonly from twelve to twenty feet of height above ground, their breadth five, and thickness one or more; and as the most of them seem, from the places in which they are erected, to have been carried from a considerable distance, it may justly excite wonder, how, in the ignorance of mechanical powers, this could be effected. By whatever means they were brought, or in whatever manner erected, they are rude blocks of hard stone, of the

Standing stones.

same shape in which they were raised from the quarry, without any marks of an instrument, without carving, inscription, or hieroglyphics. They are plainly the monuments of an early age, when the people were ignorant of arts and of letters. For what purpose, or with what design, they were erected, the records of these islands are silent. There is no tradition now existing, to which recourse must be sometimes had in the penury of other evidence; but tradition ventures not, in this case, to hazard an opinion. Some have supposed them intended to mark the spot that contained the bones or the ashes of a beloved prince, a brave chieftain, or dear departed friend, or to serve as a bounday between the territories of one great man and those of another; while others have imagined them designed to preserve the remembrance of some noted event that concerned the safety, the honour, or the advantage, of the community. Since no tumuli, urns, or graves, have ever been found near them, they cannot certainly be considered as memorials of the dead; nor is it more probable that they were intended to mark the limits of contiguous proprietors; as land-marks, equally well calculated to serve the purpose, might have been erected with infinitely less labour. It is therefore strongly suspected that they must be arranged under that class of antiquities which resulted from Druidical superstition, which was anciently established among the Celtic nations, and in Scandinavia, and over the whole of the north. Many of the more regular monuments of that worship are to be found in the islands, called by antiquarians Druidical temples, consisting of circles of great stones. The most distinguished of these are the celebrated Stones of Stennis. These stand on the banks of the lake of the same name, where the land stretches into it in both sides, so as nearly to divide the lake into two, forming two plains on each side, stretching

Antiquities.

Druidical monuments.

Stones of Stennis.

Antiquities. out and nearly meeting with each other. These plains are pleasantly situated in the bosom of the loch, and in the centre of an immense ampitheatre, in the area of which are the parishes of Stennis, Harra, and Birsay. Its limits are the hills of Orpher, Rendal, and Sandwick, and the majestic hills of Hoy, which, towards the south, lie at a much greater distance, and bound the prospect. That on the west side of the loch contains a circle, sixty fathoms in diameter, formed by a ditch on the outside, twenty feet broad and twelve feet deep; and on the inside, by a range of standing stones, twelve or fourteen feet high and four broad. The highest of those now standing is about eighteen feet above the surface of the earth. Several of them are fallen down; of others fragments remain; and of some only the holes in which they stood. The earth that has been taken from the ditch has been carried away, and very probably been made use of to form four tumuli or barrows of considerable magnitude, which are ranked in pairs on the east and west sides of this remarkable monument of antiquity. The plain on the east border of the loch exhibits a semicircle, sixteen fathoms in diameter, formed not, like the circle, with a ditch, but by a mound of earth, and with stones in the inside, like the former in shape, though of much larger dimensions. Near the circle there are standing stones that seem to be placed in no regular order that we can now discern; and near the semicircle are others of the same description. In one of the latter is a round hole, not in the middle, but towards one of the edges, much worn, as if by the friction of a rope or chain by which some animal had been bound. Towards the centre of the semicircle, too, is a very large broad stone now lying on the ground. The perforated stone that stands near the semicircle may have served for fastening the victim,

while that near its centre was probably made use of as an altar for the immolation. Antiquities.

We have formerly remarked, that in various parts of Scotland, and particularly in Highland districts, where the operations of building, inclosing, and agriculture, have not destroyed them, similar circles of vast stones are to be found. It is worthy of notice, that the Druids, whose superstition was evidently similar to that used in some of the eastern nations, as being worshippers of the sun, appear to have given considerable attention to astronomy. In some places where such monuments are found, there are only four great standing stones, which are uniformly placed with much precision in the four cardinal points when considered in relation to each other and to the centre. Sometimes also the subdivisions or lesser points of the compass are marked in the same circle, or by the stones of the central or inner circle. The altar of sacrifice is sometimes a heap of loose stones, in the middle of the whole, with a great stone on the top; and sometimes also it consists of an enormous stone, placed due south from the centre of the circle. Very frequently there are avenues of stones running from south to north, and from east to west, in a straight line, all meeting at the centre of the circle. It is generally supposed that these circles of stones are meant to represent the equatorial circle, and that the smaller circles were meant to represent the ecliptic, or the sun's apparent path among the fixed stars. They probably, when entire, enabled the priests to mark the rising of the sun, moon, and stars, the different seasons of the year, and even the divisions of the day, with tolerable precision. The Circle of Stennis, which is of large dimensions, would enable the priests to mark any subdivision of the points of the compass, upon the circumference, without having recourse to a concentric Remarks on Druidism.

Antiquities. circle, or to an adjoining smaller circle. It appears to have been entered by gateways from the south, and from the north; and the great stone of sacrifice, already mentioned, is seen through the gateway, due south from the centre of the circle. A set of loose stepping stones across the lake forms a communication between the great circle and the stones of sacrifice.

Old buildings. In ancient writers, many buildings in the Orkney isles are mentioned as very lofty and magnificent; but so completely are several of them now in ruins, that we in vain search for the place on which they stood. The Bishop's Palace in Eagleshay, the house of Siguid of Westness, that of Sween in Gairsay, the Castle of Damsay, the abode of Therkel in Sandwick, the noted Palaces of the Princes and Bishops in Birsa, and the Palace of the Earls in Orphir, are utterly destroyed. Most, if not the whole of these, however, were perhaps built of wood. The Palace of Birsa appears to have stood on a beautiful green spot near the church, on the sea-side, fronting what is called the Burgh of Birsa. This last is a small portion of pretty high land, which the force of the ocean has broken off from the Mainland, and formed into a separate island, to which there is access by land only at low water.

Burgh of Birsa.

From the remains of a wall yet to be seen on the land-side, and the marks of some huts within it, there is much reason to believe that, as the name Burgh imports, it must have been, like some others through the islands, what may be denominated a rock fortification. In a later period it served a very different purpose, as there are in the remains of it a chapel, said to have been dedicated to St Peter, which, like another in Deerness, was till of late a place of pilgrimage, and the receptacle of many a devout oblation. Time, operating with other circumstances, has now destroyed the credit of their virtues.

In the small island of Weir, and near its centre, on a fine green hillock, which has a commanding view of the adjacent islands, is situated the Castle of Coppirow or Cubbirow, which in the ancient language, we are told, signifies a tower of defence against external violence. The building is a square, fifteen feet on the side, the walls seven feet thick, constructed of large stones strongly connected with lime; and this uncommon strength, together with the ditches and ramparts around it, shows plainly that it was intended as a fortification. An Orkney gentleman, about the twelfth century, erected it in that form; and it afterwards stood a siege of some months, and after all was not taken. His name was Kobbem Staranga, a man of great note, and of a family much connected with the islands; and the name which the castle bears is so similar, in point of sound, to that of the founder, that we need trace it to no other derivation.

Antiquities. Cubbirow Castle.

In one place, the whimsical name given to a particular spot appears to have induced some persons, without reason, to consider it as connected with the antiquities of the islands. Scarcely two miles to the north-east of Westness, in the island of Ronsay, in an angle formed by two hills facing the north-west, rises a ridge or mound of considerable height and length, with a very large moat or ditch on each side of it, formed by the motion of the water rushing impetuously down the declivity. The whole is evidently a production of nature, as no marks of art, on the most accurate inspection, can be discovered in it; and the name of the Camp of Jupiter Fring, which it bears, is the only circumstance that has brought it into notice, or made it remarkable. It has borne this extraordinary appellation for a long time; but it is not known by whom, or on what occasion, it was bestowed on it.

Camp of Jupiter Fring.

Antiquities. It has, for many years past, been the favourite haunt of a pair of eagles, which are known to have frequented the same spot for ages; and the circumstance of its being chosen for that purpose by the bird sacred to the king of the gods, might have furnished some whimsical person with the first hint for calling this eminence the Camp of Jupiter Fring, *Feriens*, or the Striker.

Old cairns found. In a peat bog near Kirkwall, at an equal distance from the town, the Bay of Frith, and the Bay of Scalpa, in the year 1774, a variety of silver coins of Canute the Great were found contained in two horns; but many of them were lost by being given to different persons before the importance of this singular discovery was known. The coins consisted of no less than forty-two varieties as to their place of coinage in England.

Remarkable burying place. The island of Westray contains, on the north and south-west sides, a great number of graves, scattered over two extensive plains, of that nature which are called *Links* in Scotland. They have at first perhaps been covered by tumuli, or barrows, though of this there is no absolute certainty, as the ground on which they are found is composed entirely of sand, by the blowing of which the graves have been only of late discovered. They are formed either of stones of a moderate size, or of four larger ones on end, arranged in the form of a chest to contain the body, and such other articles as the custom of the time interred with it. Few or no marks of burning are observable in these mansions of the dead, which are occupied mostly by bones, not of men only, but of several other animals. Warlike instruments, of the kind then in use, also make a part of their contents; among which may be reckoned battle-axes, two-handed swords, helmets, swords made of the bone of a large fish, and also daggers. They have, besides, been found to contain instruments employed in

the common purposes of life, as knives and combs, and others that have been used as ornaments, such as beads, brotches, and chains, together with some other articles, the use of which is now unknown. Of this last kind may be mentioned a flat piece of marble of a circular form, about two inches and a half in diameter; several stones, in shape and appearance like whetstones, that had never been used; and an iron vessel resesembling a helmet, only four inches and a half in the cavity, much damaged, as with the stroke of a sharp weapon, such as an axe or a sword. In one of them was found a metal spoon and a glass cup that contained two gills Scottish measure; and in another a number of round perforated stones, formed into the shape and size of *whorls*, like those that were formerly used in Scotland for spinning. That these are not ordinary places of interment, appears evident from the the multitude of graves so widely scattered over the plains; which circumstance rather points them out as the scenes of so many hostile engagements. No record, however, that has reached us, nor even any tradition, points out when, or on what occasion, such fatal actions happened. Antiquities.

Many incursions, both from the Highlands and the Hebrides, were in ancient times made into these islands, and the most desperate valour shewn in defending their property, as well as in seizing and carrying off the plunder. In some of these, perhaps, the inhabitants of the island might have assembled on these occasions to prevent the landing of their enemies; and in consequence of a battle, such of the natives as had been killed might have been buried on the fields, together with their favourite beasts or birds, their ornaments, and such other things as in life had shared their affection. This is rather a more probable supposition than that these are the graves of such men as had intended an invasion of the island, and as

Manners and Customs.

soon as they had landed had been attacked by the people, and slaughtered on the spot, where they were immediately buried with their effects, as a memorial of their injustice and audacity. To this opinion there is a solid objection, arising from the manners of the age and the custom of enemies, who seldom or never bestow such attention on the interment of one another.

Classes.

Gentry.

The gentry or landed proprietors of these islands differ in no respect in their education and manners from those of the rest of Scotland. The common Scottish dialect is used here by all persons; though it is said that remains of the Norwegian tongue existed in some of the islands about a century ago.

Shopkeepers, &c

The second class of persons consist of tradesmen and shopkeepers. Such as are engaged in traffic, or follow mechanical employments, reside for the most part in the two principal towns; only a few of them being scattered over the islands. The traders that live in the country are decent, peaceable, industrious, honest people, who commonly unite the business of the farmer with that of the trader, and are of considerable benefit to their neighbours. The shopkeepers in Stromness, who have scarcely any opportunity of farming, are people of nearly the same description. Some that carry on the retail trade in Kirkwall are descended from respectable familes, and are, besides, men of sense and education; they know how to purchase goods of the best quality and at the best market; they have wisdom to preserve their credit, and integrity to induce them faithfully to serve their customers. Here, however, as elsewhere, all varieties of character and conduct are found.

Tenants.

The third class of inhabitants contains all those that are in any respect connected with the cultivation of the land, such as farmers, with their servants and cottagers; and all these taken together may be considered as making

about eight-tenths of the whole population. From this number must be deducted such gentlemen as farm a considerable part of their own estates, as well as those farmers that occupy a large proportion of the lands of others; the remainder, comprehending the great body of that order, consist of men who are in general poor, having very little stock, and depending for the most part on *steelbow*, which is a certain number of horses and cattle, with a quantity of corn and provender, which the tenant receives on his entry to the farm and delivers at his removal, and which belongs to the proprietor. Their farms are small, in comparison with those in the best cultivated parts of Scotland, as they seldom exceed forty acres of arable land, with a suitable proportion of waste land for pasture; and at an average they are not above twenty acres, with a similar appendage. The rents are almost always paid in kind; and what is still worse, arbitrary services are still exacted in several instances. Few of them, comparatively speaking, have leases, and the few leases are only of very short duration; so that they can attempt no sort of improvement. But although most of them are tenants at will, they are not in a worse condition than others, as they are very seldom removed from their little possessions. So much, indeed, is this the case, that there are many who at this moment occupy the very same farms that were held by their fathers, grandfathers, and great-grandfathers. Mean as this condition of farmers may appear in the eyes of those that have been accustomed to behold a substantial and independent tenantry, that class of people denominated *cottars* are in a still worse condition. To understand this, it must be observed, that, connected with almost every large farm, there are some cottages, to every one of which a garden is annexed, with as much grass and corn land as will pasture a cow or two in summer, and furnish for them provender in winter. Poor

Manners and customs.

Cottars.

Manners and Customs.

families reside in these cottages, who are understood to hold them of the person who occupies the principal farm, to whom they are entirely subject. He may remove them at pleasure, and, as a rent for their little farm, may call them to labour for him at any time of the year, and at any sort of employment. Moreover, their children, as soon as they become fit for labour, must work for him in the capacity of servants, for what he reckons reasonable wages; and if at any time they refuse, the parents, at the next term, may be expelled from their habitations.

Emigration.

It cannot be accounted wonderful, that in a society thus constituted emigration is extremely common. Great numbers of the young men go into the navy, or engage on board merchant ships that pass these islands; and in both situations they become bold and enterprising seamen. From the low state of agriculture, numbers of young men become masons, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and weavers, and emigrate in quest of employment. Great numbers of the young women also remove to Leith, Edinburgh, and London. In their persons they are generally tall, robust, and well proportioned; the complexion is usually fair and florid; and they commonly live to a considerably old age; sobriety is now one of their virtues. In other respects, a description of their character, given by one of the natives about half a century ago, is not incorrect. "Most of the gentry or better sort, finishing their education at Edinburgh, affect the manners and customs of that place. A character given of them by historians many years ago, that they were great drinkers, but not drunkards, is in some measure true still, though the practice of excessive drinking has been much laid aside within these few years. They are generally kind without caressing, civil without ceremony, and respectful without compliment; their resentments of obligations and

injuries are more quick than perceptible; they are obliging and hospitable to strangers; and where no party differences intervene, social and friendly among themselves; but artful endeavours to undermine the measures and interests of each other, from slight causes, have for several years bygone destroyed the harmony and mutual intercourse of beneficence which would otherwise have taken place; diverted their attention from improving the ground by better methods of husbandry; and obstructed the introduction of some useful arts and branches of commerce, which might be advantageously carried on from thence. It is remarkable, however, that their animosities seldom or never break out into personal insults or abusive language, either openly or in private. On public occasions, or when business requires it, they meet together freely, join in conversation, and always behave civilly to each other. Manners and Customs.

"The commonalty are healthy, hardy, well-shaped, subject to few diseases, and capable of an abstemious and laborious life at the same time; but, for want of profitable employment, slow at work, and many of them inclined to idleness. In sagacity and natural understanding they are inferior to few of the commons in Britain. Sparing of their words; reserved in their sentiments, especially of what seems to have a connection with their interest; apt to magnify or aggravate their losses, and studious to conceal or diminish their gains; tenacious of old customs, though ever so inconvenient; averse to new, till recommended by some successful examples among their own rank and acquaintance, and then universally keen to imitate; honest in their dealings with one another, but not so scrupulous with respect to the master of the ground; often running deeply in arrears to him, while they punctually clear credit with every one else. These and some

Manners and Customs.

other singularities may be ascribed to the absurd and impolitic custom of short leases, racked rents, and high entries, which prevail in other parts as well as here. Theft and other crimes are concealed even by those who have sustained the injury, from an opinion that it is a degree of guilt in a private person to become the voluntary instrument of another's sufferings; and that the imprecations of the afflicted, though suffering by the hand of justice, are followed with visible judgments. They are dexterous at the oar and management of boats; and when they betake themselves to the sea, make sober, honest, and expert sailors. Though in the neighbourhood of the Highlands of Scotland, yet they have none of those manners and customs for which the Highlanders are remarkable, but such as resemble those of the southern rather than of the northern part of the kingdom. Their religion is presbyterian, without bigotry, enthusiasm, or zeal; and without dissenters, excepting a very few of the episcopal persuasion. The mirth, diversions, and mutual entertainments of the Christmas and other holidays, are still continued, though the devotion of them be quite forgot."

Superstitions.

Some of the customs of the inhabitants of these islands deserve notice; but, to avoid prolixity, the few that shall be mentioned at present are such only as appear to be illustrative of character and manners. From the long residence of the bishops among them, both before and since the reformation, no less than from the splendid external show in the episcopal worship, such a deep impression has been made by episcopacy on the minds of the people, that more than a century has not been able entirely to efface it. To many of the old places of worship, therefore, especially such as have been dedicated to particular favourite saints, they still pay much ve-

Manners and Customs.

neration, visiting them frequently when they are serious, melancholy, or in a devout mood; repeating within their ruinous walls prayers, pater-nosters, and forms of words of which they have little knowledge. When they consider themselves in any imminent danger, they invoke the aid of these saints, and vow to perform services, or present oblations to them, on condition that they interpose successfully in their behalf; and they are generally very punctual in performing their vows. Some days of the week are fortunate to begin any business of importance, others would spoil it completely; and in this respect even some months are much preferable to others. Thursdays and Fridays are the days on which they incline to marry; and they anxiously and scrupulously avoid doing it at any other time than when the moon is waxing. If they kill cattle, they must also do it during the growing of that luminary; from an idea that if it be delayed till the waning, the meat will be of an inferior quality. In preparing for a voyage, when leaving the shore, they always turn their boats in the direction of the sun's motion; and in some places they never fail to utter a short prayer on such occasions.

The festivals in the Romish calendar are observed with the most studious care; not, indeed, as times of religious worship, but as days exempted from labour, and devoted to feasting and conviviality. On some of these days they must be allowed to be entirely idle; on others they will engage a little in some kinds of work. One while they must go a-fishing, another they carefully abstain from that sort of employment; now they must eat fish, now flesh, now eggs, milk, and so on, as the particular day or season directs them.

Like the common people in other places, they are extremely credulous, and put entire confidence in men of

Manners and Customs.

high pretensions; which leads them, as often as they have occasion to take advice with respect to the state of their mind, their body, or their affairs, to trust quacks in every line, rather than men that have been regularly bred, and are distinguised for their good sense and education. The same credulous spirit leads them to put faith in all the absurd and ridiculous tales which are so often circulated concerning witches, fairies, &c. and consequently subjects them to be imposed upon by all such as pretend to deal with familiar spirits.

Hence the multitude of charms that are still in practice for killing sparrows that destroy the early corn; expelling mice and rats that infest houses; for securing the successful brewing of ale and churning of milk; as well as those that respect women in labour and marriage; and those that are made use of for procuring good luck, curing the diseases of sheep, horses, and black cattle, and driving away toothach, hæmorrhagy, consumption, and other distempers.

Manufactures.

As the greatest proprietors of land are not resident in the islands, it necessarily happens that a large proportion of the produce is carried away to support the luxury, the industry, and the population of a distant country, and gives rise to no beneficial effect in the place where it was reared. Hence it is more difficult to accumulate capital in this quarter than elsewhere; and in the different branches of industry the Orkneys may be considered as almost a century behind other parts of the empire. Not only is a large proportion of the produce carried off, in the form of rent, to support proprietors residing on the Mainland, and to swell the luxury of London and Edinburgh; but even of those who remain in the islands, the incomes are exhausted in purchasing the cloths, and all the manufactures and productions that are only to be obtained from the tra-

ding towns of Scotland or England. Thus little indeed remains to encourage or reward the industry of any persons here who might think fit to engage in manufactures. Even were they to do so, the home market would be too limited to afford them much encouragement; and the want of capital would render it impossible for them to enter into competition in a distant market with the wealthy traders of the British empire. Manufactures.

The wool of these islands, to the improvement of which little attention has been paid, is at present consumed in a home manufacture. It is converted into stockings and blankets, and particularly into a kind of coarse cloth, for the use of children, and such people, of both sexes, as live in the country; for those that reside in the towns wear almost all of them English cloth. Except in this respect, the woollen manufacture has for some time past met with little attention, however important it may have formerly been, and has now given way to that of linen yarn and linen cloth. Woollen.

Somewhat more than fifty years ago this manufacture was introduced; and, like every innovation that promises to employ the leisure of an indolent people, met with a reception that was very unfavourable. As it was pretty well suited, however, to the circumstances of the place, and to the condition of the people, it soon triumphed over every opposition, diffused itself widely in all quarters; and not only improved the state of those that directed it, but is said to have saved the lives of many who would otherwise have perished for want in some years of extreme dearth and scarcity. For about the space of fifteen or twenty years, while it was under the direction of one, or only a very few persons, it continued in a progressive and flourishing state, furnishing every year 25,000 spindles of excellent linen yarn to employ the industry of the manufac- Linen.

Manufactures.

turers in the south. After that time it suffered a temporary decline. This was owing to some men who, jealous of those by whom the manufacture was introduced, and by whom it had hitherto been conducted, and envying their profits, resolved to have a share of them; and for that end they imported flax, employed people to dress it, and gave it out to spin among the women that had for some time been thus employed. The spinners, by this time, tasting the sweets of industry, and opening their eyes to their own advantage, soon perceived the competition among their employers, and availed themselves of it to raise their wages; and in proportion as they succeeded in this particular, they became less attentive to their duty. The yarn was accordingly worse spun, worse measured, worse counted, than ever it had been formerly, and of consequence lost in the market a part of that character which before it had so justly gained. Still a considerable quantity of it was spun, and readily found purchasers in Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and among the travelling merchants who came over annually from the coast of Moray and Inverness to attend the great Lammas market, and who received it in barter for their goods in considerable quantity. Though much of it was disposed of in this manner, a large quantity still remained, which was commonly wrought into a coarse kind of linen cloth, that about ten years ago amounted annually to 60,000 yards, as appears from the books of the stamp-master.

As the quantity of yarn spun speedily exceeded the quantity that could be easily sold to advantage, and as the purchasers learned to detect all sorts of imposition, the competition of spinners produced that attention to correct work which the excessive competition of purchasers had for a time destroyed; and of late the yarn produced has increased in quantity, while, at the same time, it has retrieved its

character in point of good quality. The two-handed spinning wheel was introduced by a company of manufacturers in Montrose, and several hundreds of young women speedily learned the use of it. The employment producing a sort of independence, and being at the same time suitable to the dispostions of the persons engaged in it, the young women readily betook themselves to this sort of employment, and were unwilling to engage as servants in the families of gentlemen or of farmers. This circumstance raised a sort of hue and cry against the new business, as detrimental to agriculture, and as producing a less respectful conduct on the part of domestic servants. The proprietors and cultivators of the soil did not perceive how deeply their own interest was promoted by the introduction of manufactures; that a market could thus be procured for the produce of their lands, because a multitude of persons would have something to give in return for it; and that, on the other hand, the tendency which mankind always have to multiply in proportion to their means of subsistence, would soon obviate every complaint on account of the want of a sufficient population. Fortunately the manufacture has surmounted all opposition, and now nearly 60,000 yards of linen are annually stamped; and, besides the yarn bartered in the manner already mentioned, no fewer than 50,000 spindles have been annually sold, and as much sent to the thread manufactory. Almost the whole flax thus consumed is imported from Russia and Holland. Manufactures.

But the principal manufacture of the Orkneys, and that which greatly exceeds all others in point of importance, is that of kelp, of which, to avoid unnecessary repetition, we shall here give some account.

Kelp, when prepared, is a substance composed of different materials, of which the alkaline salts, soda and potash, Kelp.

Manufactures.

are the chief. It is chiefly valuable on account of the quantity of soda which it contains. This ingredient renders it useful in the composition of soap, in the manufacture of alum, and in the formation of crown and bottle glass; and in these manufactures kelp answers all the purposes of the very best potash, which cannot be procured but at great expence from abroad, while the former can be obtained by the industry of our own people on our own shores. It is formed of the ashes of marine plants, which are cut from the rocks with a hook, or collected on the shore for that purpose, and dried on the beach to a certain degree; they are afterwards burnt in a kiln in considerable quantity, in which they are strongly stirred with an iron rake into a fluid state; and when they cool the ashes condense into a dark blue or whitish-coloured mass, nearly of the hardness and solidity of a fragment of rock. In the fresh growing plants no other salts are found than common salt, or muriate of soda, and Epsom salt, or muriate of magnesia, and such others as are dissolved in sea water. The plants, by being constantly, or with extreme frequency, steeped or macerated in sea water, become impregnated with the salts which it contains. The alkali is produced by the combustion of the plants. The soda is undoubtedly derived from the decomposition of part of the muriate of soda or common salt originally in the composition of the plant, owing to some unknown ingredient in the plant which either dissipates or decomposes the muriatic acid. But in kelp the greatest proportion of alkaline salt is potash; and this seems to be formed by some unknown atmospheric combination with the mucilage of the plant.

The three numerous genera of *fucus ulva* and *conferva* all contain qualities that render them capable of being converted into this substance; but the two latter, and in-

deed many of the former, are of such a loose texture, and are met with so seldom, as to contribute but little to its formation; so that the whole quantity of kelp produced here, at least, may be considered as furnished by submarine plants of the four following kinds. Kelp.

1st, The (fucus nodosus Lin.) knotted sea-ware, or bell-wrack, which is here known by the name of *yellow tang*, and generally occupies that part of the shore that is next to the high water mark. Species of kelp.

2d, The (fucus serratus Lin.) tagged or ferrated sea-wrack, which is also denominated *yellow tang*, and which is common on the part of the shore that lies immediately below the former, or between it and the lowest ebb.

3d, The (fucus vesiculosus Lin.) sea-wrack that is both the most common and of the best quality, and is called the *sea oak*, on account of the resemblance which its leaves bear to those of the oak tree. Here, from its colour, it is called *black tangle*. It is found almost constantly on that part of the shore next the lowest ebb.

4th, The (fucus digitatus Lin.) tangle, which is here universally known by the name of *ware* or *red ware*, is, in point of situation, below all the rest, insomuch that though its tops be occasionally uncovered, its roots are very seldom left dry, even at the lowest spring tides.

These plants fix their roots in the immoveable rocks, in the loose stones, and even in such pieces of wood as happen to be thrown in by the weather; from none of which, however, they seem to draw any part of their substance, but depend for it probably on the air and water. Nor do they grow in the deep, but only on the shores, where they are either entirely or in part uncovered at complete low water. Hence, where the shores are bold and steep, and the water near them very deep, as on the west side of this country, these plants do not grow;

Kelp. and if they did, they would be inaccessible, on account of the constant agitation of the billows. Frequently, however, it has been observed, that they thrive much better on shores exposed to a current than they do in a more quiescent situation; that they produce in proportion to their quantity much more kelp; and when the place of their growth is near the mouth of rivulets, or in any way exposed to much fresh water, that both their quantity and quality are inferior to what they are in perfectly salt water. Their growth is not only more rapid but more vigorous the nearer they are to the lowest ebb; and they gradually produce a less luxuriant crop as they approach the flood mark. The nature of the rocks, too, on which they grow, seems to influence the bulk of the crop, and perhaps its quality, as it has sometimes been observed that sand-stone, or even argillaceous schistus, is seldom covered with such a thick coat of weeds as either whin-stone or lime-stone. In a situation suited to their nature, they seem to arrive at the greatest perfection, for the purpose intended, in the space of two, or at most three years. Before that age, in many places, they are too short to admit of cutting; and when allowed to stand for four or five years, the same weight, or the same quantity of weeds, will not produce so much kelp as if they had been cut and manufactured sooner. The months of April and May are supposed to be the most productive season, though the people here seldom or never begin so early, as they are in general connected with farms, which occupy their attention till the beginning of June. From that time to the first or middle of August, nearly three thousand of both sexes, most of them young, are employed in this manufacture. Each of them, during that period, makes a ton, consisting of 24 cwt. of kelp; for which they receive, in some cases, 30s. or 40s. and in others 50s. or even sometimes L. 3 Sterling. Ma-

nufacturing farmers seldom acquire skill in either profes- Kelp.
sion, as their attention is divided between them, and they trust to both for subsistence. Sometimes the one may fail and sometimes the other; their spirits sink with the loss which they sustain, and then both their farm and manufacture are neglected. This observation is but too just with regard to those who at the same time burn kelp and cultivate the land; so that a signal benefit would result from separating these two employments, as they have undoubtedly, for many years past, incumbered and impeded the progress of each other. If such a measure were deemed expedient, a number of people could, without any detriment, be taken by degrees from agriculture, and employed entirely in the kelp manufacture. This, however, could not be done, unless kilns were introduced of a proper construction for burning the weeds as they are cut from the rocks, or driven ashore by the billows, not only in summer, as at present, but during the whole year. The kilns employed in this operation are rudely constructed of stones, in the form of a circle four or five feet in diameter, and about one in depth; and in each of them, at a time, are commonly burnt from two to six hundred weight of kelp, which would perhaps be improved in quality, as well as quantity, were they of still larger dimensions. Colonel Fullarton's kilns have been lately tried in Orkney with much success: also a more simple form of kiln, composed of fire bricks, similar in construction to those commonly used; only it has reservoirs or moulds into which the liquid kelp is allowed to flow and consolidate, and is not allowed to cool while there are weeds within its reach. It can then be removed, and reconstructed contiguous to another range of weeds. Were such kilns constructed on flat-bottomed boats, they might be moved from bay to bay, and consume all the fuci or sea-weed in succession.

Kelp. Thus the burning of kelp might become a separate trade.

At particular places, such as creeks and bays, in several of the islands, vast quantities of ware or sea-weeds are often thrown ashore in spring, harvest, or winter; and as no method has yet been tried of converting these into kelp so long as they are in a fresh state, and as the land cannot exhaust these quantities in manure, excellent materials for several hundred tons of kelp are thus lost every year to the proprietors and the country. Not only all of this might be gained, but a very considerable addition made to it, if the weeds, both ware and tangle, driven or cut, were taken fresh, and in that state converted into kelp, by means of kilns properly constructed for the purpose, and wrought through the whole year by people whose sole employment it should be to attend to that business. The *kelpers*, then, as they might in that case be properly called, would acquire dexterity from the division of labour, and be ever ready, not only to treat the weeds in a proper manner, and burn them in the best state, but to cut and manufacture them in many places not hitherto frequented; and they would find leisure to apply themselves to the burning of tangle and red ware, which in most places are so abundant, and which can only be obtained at the spring tides. This last branch of the kelp manufacture has become an object of attention of late only. It is, however, capable of vast improvement.

Besides, if enlarging the soil for the production of sea-weeds be a practicable improvement (and it is apprehended that it is so, as in this country it has in several instances been tried with effect), the kelpers might employ their time between tides in digging or collecting such hard, large, compact stones, as were best for the purpose, and placing them on the shores in such sandy or clayey bottoms as contain few or no weeds, and in such a man-

ner as would expose them to the least danger of being removed by the surge. Kelp.

The kelp, after being made in the manner above stated, is suffered to remain some time in the kiln, in order to cool. If the mass be large, it will require two or three days, when it is raised in large pieces, and immediately placed in some sheltered situation. This precaution is used from an idea, that if exposed to the atmosphere, from which it evidently draws moisture, it crumbles down into small pieces, and thus loses much of its value. Storehouses have therefore been built every where for its reception. Not only in this, but in other respects, and indeed in all the steps of the process, such as collecting, drying, and burning the weeds, and raking the ashes into fluidity, much care is taken to preserve it from imparities of every sort. The best kind of kelp has an acrid or caustic taste and a sulphurous smell; the colour is a dark blue, bordering on green; the pieces are large, and compact in their texture, with few or no pores containing charry matter; as this last is a proof that the sea plants have not undergone a thorough combustion, or that the mass has not been sufficiently fused. These are marks of its goodness which are obvious to the senses, and may in general be depended on, though they are very far from being infallible, as any one must know who has ever made experiments on this substance. To satisfy us completely in regard to this matter, we must know accurately the quantity of soda that kelp contains, which in the best kind has, by repeated experiments, been found to be the twentieth part of its weight. Marks of good kelp.

Though the manufactures into which kelp now enters copiously as a valuable ingredient have existed long, the preparation of this substance does not appear to have been of very long standing, and certainly has not been known

Kelp. here above eighty years. It was about the commencement of that period that some gentlemen, who had either seen the manufacture in other parts, or had heard it described, entered into a resolution to attempt the introduction of it into their own country. The shores, extensive in every direction, and thickly clad with these marine plants, to which the hand of man had hitherto given no disturbance, presented themselves to view in all their luxuriance, and excited hopes, that there might one day result from them such signal benefits as to extend not only to the people of Orkney, but to the whole nation. Beneficial, however, as the attempt may appear, it was not very much relished; and the lower class of people, who would have rejoiced at the prospect, had they not been sunk in the most torpid indolence, discovered such an aversion to the measure, that they made no scruple to give it the most determined opposition. Regarding every kind of employment which they had not been accustomed to see, or to engage in, as not only useless but detrimental, they represented boldly to their superiors the bad consequences which they apprehended from this new and strange business. "They were certain," they said, "that the suffocating smoke that issued from the kelp kilns would sicken or kill every species of fish on the coast, or drive them into the ocean, far beyond the reach of the fishermen, blast the corn and grass on their farms, introduce diseases among the human species, and smite with barrenness all sorts of animals." The proprietors, however, persisted in their plan of manufacturing kelp, and the manufacture gradually surmounted all the obstacles cast in its way, and of late it has flourished in a wonderful manner. As the price, however, for the first twenty years after its introduction, was but low, the quantity made in that time was inconsiderable. During the sub-

The manufacture of kelp unpopular.

sequent twenty years the price rose to L.2, 5s. the ton; and the value of all that was made amounted to L.2000 Sterling annually. For the following ten years the price advanced to four guineas at an average, and the yearly value was L.6000 Sterling. The price at the market, from 1770, for the space of eight years, was not less than L.5 the ton; nor the value of the annual quantity below L.10,000; and from that time to 1791, inclusive, which is a period of thirteen years, the price was still higher, being L.6 the ton, and the whole yearly value amounted to L.17,000 Sterling. From that time to the present, including a space of sixteen years, the quantity of kelp has increased considerably; and the price has risen in a still greater proportion, especially since the commencement of the late war, which has, for obvious reasons, raised to an enormous height the price of Spanish barilla. Kelp.

In some few years during that period, the quantity made has been 3000 tons; and as the price has been L.9, L.9, 9s. and even L.10, the manufacture has brought into the islands nearly L.30,000 Sterling sometimes in one season. The average in that time, indeed, has not been so great, nor has the price always been so high; so that we cannot rate the former above 2500 tons, nor the latter at more than L.9 Sterling *per* ton. Even at a medium, however, the sum arising from that quantity, in that period, amounts to L.225,000; and if this be added to the whole sum that had been gained in the seventy years preceding, the total, since the commencement of the manufacture, will rise to L.595,000. Thus, in the space of eighty years, the proprietors of these islands, whose land-rents do not exceed L.6000 a-year, have, together with their tenants and their servants, received, in addition to their incomes, the enormous sum of half a million Sterling. This vast sum, indeed, has been divided not only under the names of Value of the manufacture.

Kelp. profits, rent, and wages, but of freights, commission, insurance, &c.; and a considerable part of it has been drawn and spent by gentlemen who were non-resident; but as the kelp was not only manufactured by natives, but sold by them, and for the most part carried to market in vessels the property of men in the isles, the advantages of which it has been productive have been reaped almost entirely by this district. Such a large sum, even with the deductions already noticed, introduced into a place where money was scarce; where no other manufacture, except that of a little linen and linen yarn, was known; where fisheries, that might have constituted wealth, were regarded as an object of inferior moment; and where commerce languished, partly for want of spirit, and partly for want of capital—must have produced some remarkable effects. To ascertain the nature, as well as extent of these, an accurate view must be taken of the present state of the country, and a comparison drawn between it and that which existed previously to the introduction of this manufacture, or even before the sums annually received for its produce amounted to any considerable height. More than 3000 people are at present employed in this beneficial manufacture; each of whom, during the two last months of summer, earns, in addition to his ordinary income, L.2, L.2, 10s. or even L.3 Sterling, which is more than he would have gained in a whole year formerly. But besides the benefit it confers on those who are immediately engaged in the employment, it has often been of great advantage to the inhabitants in general. From the situation and circumstances of this place, it is evident that it must be subject to sudden and violent gusts of wind, which frequently blast the productions of the earth to such a degree, that the crops, from having the most flattering appearance in

summer, or early in the autumn, sometimes, in the end, prove of little value. For several years successively, at no very remote period, this was unfortunately the case, when these islands were visited with scarcity; and had it not been for this excellent manufacture, which enabled the people to buy meal from the merchants, and the proprietors to import it for their tenants and dependents, many of the former would have been reduced to great difficulties or even perhaps perished for want; and some of the latter would have been stripped of their estates, or reduced to bankruptcy. Important as these facts may appear there are others, little, if at all, inferior, that remain to to be mentioned. The character of the common people has been greatly ameliorated by the introduction of industry; and it is probable that this species of labour first prepared the minds of the inhabitants for the other manufactures in which they have gradually engaged. Their former servility of manners, which, after the fall of the feudal system and its military spirit, was of a degrading sort, has passed away. They have learnt, in consequence of the possession of something like competence, to respect themselves; their clothing has improved; and they have become studious of neatness in their houses, and cleanness in their persons. Kelp.

One branch of industry might be expected to flourish extensively here, which, however, is little known; that is to say, the fisheries. The inhabitants of Shetland on the north, Caithness on the south, and of the western parts of Scotland, have embarked eagerly in this branch of business; but in Orkney little attention is given to it. In the intervals of their labour on the land and on the rocks, the people at present launch their boats, and catch, near the shore, a few fish for their immediate support, without discovering the smallest inclination to advance farther into Fisheries.

Fisheries. the sea, where they would seldom fail to find fish of a superior kind and quality.

Lobster fishery. An exception in regard to lobsters deserves to be mentioned. For some years past the lobster-fishing has been carried on to a considerable extent. It seems to be increasing, and has already been a profitable concern to a fishing company, and of much benefit to many of the people in several of the islands. These fish, which are excellent and numerous, are caught in nets, and confined in chests till such time as the ships arrive that are to carry them away. An opulent English company has undertaken and conducts this business, who employ a number of smacks, that have large wells in their holds, for the purpose of containing the fish, and carrying them alive weekly to the London market. About a hundred boats are employed, with ten men in each; and though the lobsters are sold for twopence Sterling a-piece, a good fisherman will gain, even at this low rate, L.10 in the summer. The whole sum that this branch of business is calculated to produce to the inhabitants, at present amounts annually to L.1000 Sterling: And as there are many places, where this species of fish abound, that have not yet been visited by the fishermen, it is believed, on good grounds, that twice that sum might easily be drawn from that fishery.

Along most of the coasts cod and ling are found; but that sort of fishery is also neglected by the inhabitants of Orkney; and, above all, the herring fishery, from which undoubtedly great advantages might result, especially as it is during the summer months, or in fine weather, that the shoals visit this coast.

Commerce. With regard to general commerce, these islands possess little, though what they have is rather in an improving state. The principl exports are, beef, pork, butter, tallow, hides, calf-skins, rabbit-skins, salt fish, oil, feathers,

linen yarn, and coarse linen cloth, kelp; and in years of fertility, corn, meal, and malt, in no small quantity. The imports are, wood, iron, flax, coal, sugar, spirits, wines, snuff and tobacco, flour and biscuit, soap, leather, hardware, broad cloth, and printed linens and cottons. The following Table exhibits a statement of the progressive improvement of the commerce of Orkney. The imports are stated at the prime cost in the markets of London, Manchester, Whitby, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Aberdeen. The exports are stated at the prices usually obtained at Leith, Dunbarton, Bristol, and Liverpool, where much kelp is consumed. Commerce.

1770,	Exports	L. 12,018	4	6	Sterling.
	Imports	10,406	6	0	
		L. 1,611	18	0	
1780,	Exports	L. 23,247	10	0	
	Imports	14,011	6	0	
		L. 9,236	4	0	
1790,	Exports	L. 26,598	12	0	
	Imports	20,803	0	0	
		L. 5,795	12	0	
1800,	Exports	L. 39,677	9	4	
	Imports	35,789	17	4	
		L. 3,887	12	0	

1770, Shipping 825 tons, ships 17, sailors 76.
1780, Shipping 940 tons, ships 20, sailors 90.
1790, Shipping 2000 tons, ships 23, sailors 170.
1800, Shipping 1375 tons, ships 21, sailors 119.

History.

Though now sunk into an obscure and unimportant province, or rather portion of a county of Great Britain, these islands, at a former period, held a much more distinguished place in the European community. The period at which they were peopled cannot be considered as known. They were known, however, to the Greeks, and were probably discovered by the Carthaginians, or by the vessels belonging to the Greek colony established at Marseilles. Herodotus mentions Britain in general; Diodorus Siculus takes notice of Scotland in particular, mentioning Cape Orcus or Dunnet Head; and Pomponius Mela calls the Orkneys by the name of *Orcades*, which to this day is their Latin appellation. Tacitus says that Agricola subdued the Orkney Islands, and discovered Thule, supposed to be Foula, one of the nearest and highest of the Shetland Isles. This last discovery the Romans could not make without passing beyond the Orkneys. The alleged conquest was speedily abandoned by the Romans. Previous to the close of the ninth century these islands appear to have been inhabited by the same race of people who, under the denomination of Picts, possessed the greater part of the eastern part of Scotland to the south of the Grampians; and who also possessed the eastern coast of Aberdeenshire, and the province of Moray, with the narrow tract on the coast of Ross-shire, and the whole of Caithness, and perhaps of Sutherland. There is reason to suppose, however, that these people, to the south and the north of the Grampians, seldom had much political connection with each other.

Discovery of these isles.

During the eighth and ninth centuries, the barbarians of the tract of elevated and desert territory between China and Persia, who have in all ages dwelt in tents, and follow their herds of cattle over enormous deserts, had repeatedly united themselves under various chiefs; and taking advantage of

the weakness of the surrounding empires of China, of Persia, or of Rome, they assailed the civilized world in various quarters, according as they found a prospect of success. Forming themselves into great hosts, they pressed on, like a mighty torrent, along the north of Asia and of Europe, driving the less united tribes of barbarians before them, and at the same time occasionally urging their way towards the more fertile regions of the south, wherever a defective internal administration gave them access. The barbarians of the north of Europe were no less oppressed by these invasions from the east than even the Roman empire itself; and in proportion as any people found themselves distressed in one quarter, they sought settlements farther to the west. Towards the end of the ninth century, the Norwegians appear to have conquered these islands, together with the Western Isles of Scotland, or the Hebrides, under a chief called Harold Harfager; and for several ages they remained under an acknowledged dependence upon the kings of Norway and Denmark. The islands, however, were governed by a hereditary chief or Earl, which is a Danish or Norwegian title; and these Earls of Orkney, though they paid a small tribute to their continental sovereign, appear to have been, in other respects, scarcely under any foreign authority. The law of primogeniture was not established among them; and hence there were often two or three Earls of Orkney at a time. Ambition produced many wars and usurpations in the family of the Earls of Orkney, one near kinsman attempting to expel another from his share of the sovereignty. These quarrels were usually determined by the sword. The weaker party had recourse to the kings of Denmark for a confirmation of his right, and sometimes also to the kings of Scotland; but, in general, that party prevailed who could muster in Orkney the greatest number of warlike

History.

Norwegian conquest.

Earls of Orkney.

History. followers. Hence the Earls of Orkney were usually men who possessed, in the estimation of the age in which they lived, great military talents. They possessed not only the Orkney Isles, which appear to have formed the centre and seat of their government, but also the Shetland Isles on the north, and Caithness and a great part of Sutherland in Scotland upon the south. This last country, being next to Caithness, appears to have received its name from the circumstance of its forming the most southern part of the dominions of the Earls of Orkney. They appear, however, also to have often possessed considerable power over the Western Isles

Enterprises of the Earls. From the nature of their territories, and the habits of their people, the ancient Earls of Orkney possessed all the importance of a maritime power; and they were accustomed to occupy themselves, according to the character of the age in which they lived, not in commerce but in rapine. They invaded the shores of Scotland, Ireland, England, and France, by sudden incursions, and carried off abundance of plunder, consisting of cattle and effects, or of the ransom which they sometimes extorted in return for their forbearance. The maritime skill of their people rendered them extremely formidable, and an overmatch even for great nations, in the divided state under which society then existed in Europe. If they found an army ready to oppose their landing on any coast, they suddenly re-embarked, and in a day or two made their incursion at the distance of some hundred miles, or wherever they found less resistance. In their ordinary habits of life, they had no sooner, in the spring, committed the seed to the soil, than the greater number of the men of mature age in the islands joined their Earl and his subordinate chiefs in a succession of predatory incursions into the neighbouring countries. After some months spent in this manner, they returned home to

reap their crop; or, in their absence, the task was performed by their women. The tempestuous and gloomy season of winter was spent by the people in luxury and riot, consuming, in the hospitable mansions of their chiefs, the plunder which they had collected at the expence of their blood during the summer months. Ale was their favourite drink, in which they indulged to a great degree. Thus they led the usual life of pirates and other freebooters, being alternately engaged in danger and in riot. History.

There is reason to believe, that in this state of things the islands were much more populous than at present. Their whole produce was spent within themselves, along with a large tribute drawn from the more fertile territory of the nations situated farther south. The means of subsistence being great, and consumption of men by war being rapid, there existed no reason to restrain them from early marriage: and hence they were able, at all times, either to join the Danes with a large force in all their efforts against England, Scotland, and Ireland; or themselves, at times, by sending forth a swarm of their youth in quest of new habitations, to form the most important undertakings. One of these deserves notice on account of its importance to the European world. Rolf or Rollo, one of the sons of an Earl of Orkney, finding his brother Einar preferred by his father, who was then alive, to the possession of the Earldom, resolved to find a new seat of sovereignty for himself. He invited to his standard such of his countrymen as were willing to engage, along with him, in the conquest of a foreign territory. He visited, with the same view, the Western Isles of Scotland, and collected from thence also a multitude of warriors, who had originally gone thither from Orkney; and having thus mustered a formidable armament, he was joined by maritime adventurers from all quarters. Rollo directed his course against England; but Alfred

Rollo conquers Normandy.

History. the Great had some years before mounted the throne of that kingdom, and by his consummate abilities had established such order, that Rollo, after some fruitless attempts, despaired of making a settlement; and therefore had recourse, for this purpose, to a kingdom where there was more probability of success. France was then in a state of confusion and imbecility; the reins of government were relaxed, and held by Charles the Simple with a feeble and unsteady hand. These circumstances were not unknown to Rollo, who, sailing up the Seine, took Rouen, the capital of the province of Neustria. He soon afterwards laid siege to Paris; and never desisted from waging war against that country till King Charles was compelled to purchase peace, by giving him his daughter Gesla in marriage, together with the province of Neustria, to be held by him and his posterity for ever, as a feudal duchy dependent on the crown of France. Having now arrived at the summit of his hopes, his good fortune seemed only to have afforded a theatre for the exertion of his virtues; for no sooner did he find himself fixed in the province, which now took the name of Normandy, than he exerted himself to the utmost to promote its prosperity. So uniformly did he pursue this object, and so successful was he in his wise and benevolent schemes, that the historians of the south, as well as those in the north, constantly describe him as a man of uncommon wisdom and capacity, generous, eloquent, indefatigable, intrepid, of noble figure, and majestic size: so that, next to Alfred, he was the greatest and most humane prince of his age. Thus did Rollo, the first son of Ronald Count of Merca and Earl of Orkney, secure that noble inheritance to his descendants; who afterwards, in the person of William the Conqueror, augmented it by their valour in the conquest of England. It was Einar, the brother of Rollo, who, as formerly

mentioned, introduced into Orkney the art of using turf for fuel. History.

Little instruction would be derived from a detail of the domestic or predatory wars of the Earls of Orkney. The Picts, who were early inhabitants, appear to have been worshippers of the sun; and the Druids were their priests. The Norwegian invasion, in the ninth century, brought along with it the more barbarous superstition of the north, or the worship of Odin. The grand object of this last worship was supposed to delight in bloodshed and war. The din of arms was esteemed the music most delightful to the ears of Odin; his eyes were feasted with human blood; those that fell in battle were so many victims on his altars; and the paradise which he had prepared for them consisted of immortal drunkenness, accompanied with the triumph of victory, or of drinking ale for ever out of the skulls of their enemies. Death from the hand of an enemy was accounted a passport to this paradise; and hence war was the first duty of the worshippers of Odin; who, in other respects, appear to have entertained no high notion of the objects of their worship, as their religious ceremonies were only practised in the north isles, from the supposition, as it would seem, that unless in the points nearest to their native country, these brutish divinities could not hear the prayers of their worshippers. Ancient religion.

The inhabitants of Orkney were converted to Christianity in a manner sufficiently characteristic of the age. Towards the end of the tenth century, Sigurd was in possession of the Earldom. He was a warlike, and therefore a popular prince. He not only governed the Orkney and Shetland Isles, but he rendered tributary the Western Islands of Scotland, and was accustomed to harass the coast of Ireland. He possessed Caithness and Sutherland; and, in contempt of the Scottish monarch, he Conversion to Christianity.

History. made violent inroads into Ross-shire and Moray on the east, and Argyleshire on the west. At that time Olaus Frigusson filled the throne of Norway and Denmark. He had been converted to Christianity in England, and, with the zeal of a new convert, attempted to spread its principles. With this view he prepared a squadron of five or six ships, on board of which he invited a number of Christian priests. After an excursion with these to Ireland, he returned homewards by Orkney. Having brought his squadron to anchor in one of the harbours of South Ronaldsay, the King of Norway invited Sigurd, the Earl, to come on board his ship. Sigurd was brave and unsuspecting, and supposed that the king had some military enterprise to propose. He readily accepted the invitation, and went on board the king's ship, along with his son Hundius. He had scarcely gone on board, when the king announced to him the alternative of going to war with him, or of consenting to become a convert to Christianity, and to receive the holy rite of baptism. Sigurd replied firmly, that he could not suffer himself to renounce a religion that he had received from his ancestors; that he had no reason to think himself wiser than they were; and that nothing had been stated to convince him that Christianity was a better religion than his own. The king had neither time nor inclination to produce any other arguments than those he had used, on similar occasions, in his own country; the arguments of intolerant zeal and despotic power. He therefore drew his sword, and laying hold of the Earl's son Hundius, whom his father had carried on board, declared, in the most determined manner, that he would instantly plunge it into the youth's bosom if his father hesitated any longer; and, at the same time, added, that his fate should only be the forerunner of what all those should suffer who refused to adopt the principles of this religion which he himself professed. Con-

vinced that an absolute refusal, or even any long hesitation or delay, would have been the certain means of involving himself, his family, and country, in one common ruin, Sigurd yielded to the imperious dictates of Olaus, whom he now acknowledged as his sovereign, publicly professed the Christian faith, and received baptism; and the people followed the example of the Earl with one accord. The king, exulting in the success of his pious enterprise, now returned home, carrying Hundius along with him as an hostage; and, on his departure, left some learned men to instruct the inhabitants in the nature of that religion which he had thus planted with the point of the sword. Hundius soon afterwards died while he was yet an hostage; and the Earl, considering this event as dissolving entirely his connection with that monarch, contracted an alliance in another quarter, by marrying, as his second wife, a daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland. The new connections formed by the Earl probably tended to confirm him in his new religion, or perhaps it did not appear a matter of sufficient importance to make a second change; and thus the men of Orkney remained Christians. History.

This Earl's death in Ireland, where he was killed, is the subject of Gray's ode of "The Fatal Sisters." The women that sung the song were the Valkers in northern mythology, whom Odin employed to choose in battle those that were to be slain, to conduct them to his hall, and to furnish them with every luxury. This ode is founded upon a traditionary story, that at the instant on which Sigurd fell in Ireland, a native of Caithness, called Daviadus, being at home, imagined he saw what he conceived to be a number of men riding up to and entering a hill near his dwelling; and that he might be in no mistake, he went to the place, and perceiving a chink in the side of Death of Sigurd, celebrated by Gray.

History. the hill, he looked through it, and saw twelve women weaving a web in a very strange loom, and of as strange materials; and as they wrought they sung, in the Danish language, a dreadful song,

How hapless has been the fate of the Earl of Orkney?

The Earls of Orkney were for some ages connected by the ties of consanguinity with all the monarchs of the north; and their exertions in war, from the character of their people, were more vigorous than those of most sovereign princes; but in proportion as the art of government improved, and the greater nations in Europe were less distracted by feudal divisions, and kings acquired greater authority, the Earls of Orkney necessarily became of less importance. Magnus, the last Norwegian Earl of Orkney, left only one daughter, who married Mallis Earl of Strathearn in Scotland. From that time no Earl resided in Orkney. Caithness was alienated to Robert the First, King of Scotland. The Earldom of Orkney was obtained by Henry Sinclair, of the family of Strathearn, in 1379, by a grant from the King of Norway, in consequence of payment of a sum of money. The Scottish monarchs afterwards laid claim to the sovereignty of these islands; while, on the other hand, the Danish monarchs insisted that the ancient tribute formerly paid to them by the Norwegian Earls was still due. In 1470 James the Third of Scotland married the daughter of Christian King of Denmark; and on that occasion the Scottish ambassadors who negociated the marriage endeavoured to prevail with the king of Denmark to relinquish all claim to these islands. He refused to do this; but compelled, by the low state of his finances, and induced by the strong desire that he had for the Scottish alliance, he pledged them for the greater part of his daughter's portion. After all the preliminary points had been adjusted, and both parties were agreed,

Orkney acquired by the Scots.

this memorable treaty (under the name of a contract of marriage) was concluded, consisting of many articles; of which the following are the most important: History.

1st, That the arrears of the annual of Norway should be remitted, with all its penalties, and no future payment should ever be exacted from the king, queen, their heirs, or their children.

2d, That the princess's portion should amount to 60,000 florins; of which 10,000 were to be paid previously to her leaving Denmark with the ambassadors; and for the remaining 50,000, her royal father, with the advice and consent of the prelates, peers, and chiefs of his kingdom, assigned the Islands of Orkney as a pledge to be retained till their redemption by himself or his successors.

3d, That King James should, in case of his own death, secure to his Queen Margaret the possession of the Palace of Linlithgow, and Castle of Doune in Monteith, with all their territories, and a revenue besides, amounting to one-third of the royal income.

4th, That if the queen, in her widowhood, should choose to leave Scotland, she should, instead of this portion, accept of 120,000 florins, of which 50,000 should be considered as paid on the restoration of Orkney to the Danish crown.

Matters were now settled; but as the commotions which had formerly existed still continued to exhaust his resources, and Christian had no expectation of an immediate supply, he offered to pledge Shetland, as he had done Orkney, but for 8000 florins only, while he paid the remaining 2000, a sum equal to about L.20,000 Sterling of our present money. The terms were deemed reasonable; the offer was accepted; and from that period the Islands of Orkney and Shetland formed a part of the Scottish monarchy, and followed its destiny. The homage and sovereignty only of the islands had been claimed by

History. the kings of Norway; and those alone could be conveyed to the Scottish monarch by the deed of impignoration. The Earl, therefore, enjoyed, as formerly, all his privileges; but the Scottish monarch obtained the rights of the Earl by giving in exchange other lands. Though the family of Sinclair, in this way, were prevailed upon to renounce the Earldom, one of them attempted, in the minority of James the Fifth, to regain possession in a forcible manner, but without success. The unfortunate Queen Mary attempted to confer these islands upon her favourite, the Earl of Bothwell, when she intended to marry him, and thereby brought on both his ruin and her's. Thereafter James the Sixth imprudently gave away these islands to Patrick Stuart, who abused his powers by very tyrannical conduct; but they returned to the crown in consequence of his forfeiture; and were at last, as formerly mentioned, granted by Charles the First to the Earl of Moray. In consequence of the abolition of the heritable jurisdictions in Scotland, the successor of the ancient Earls, now Lord Dundas, has no other right over the islands than that of levying the rents which belonged to the ancient Earls; which, however, as formerly noticed, are very high; and Lord Dundas has the power of appointing certain judges, called bailies, of whom there is one in every parish, who has power to hold courts, and determine civil causes, according to the law of Scotland, to the value of 16s. 8d. Sterling. All contests of a higher import are decided by the sheriff or steward appointed by the crown, or his deputy, at Kirkwall, or by the other courts that have supreme jurisdiction in Scotland

SHETLAND ISLANDS.

HAVING said so much upon the subject of Orkney, we account it less necessary to give a very minute account of the more northern or Shetland Isles. The political history and present situation of both these clusters of islands, with regard to the tenures by which landed property is held, is the same. The Shetland have in all ages followed the destiny of the Orkney Isles. The same Harold Harfager, King of Norway, who conquered the one, made himself master of the other also: the Earls of Orkney, at all times, held the Shetland Isles as an integral part of their domain. When Orkney was given up to the king of Scotland by the Danish monarch, Shetland went along with it. The Earl of Morton acquired the superiority of Shetland along with that of Orkney; and Lord Dundas at present holds the right which belonged to the ancient Earls of Orkney to certain rents and payments, or feu-duties, from all the proprietors of these islands. General description.

The Shetland Islands are situated in latitude 60 and 61°. They consist of about seventeen inhabited islands, and a number of lesser ones, called, as in Orkney, *Holms*, dedicated to the feeding of cattle, sheep, &c. The principal island is here, as in Orkney, called the Mainland, and bears a larger proportion to the whole territory than in Orkney. The Mainland is no less than sixty miles in length from north to south, and in some places it is upwards of twelve miles in breadth. It projects into the sea with a vast mul- Mainland.

General Description.

titude of irregular promontories; and is on all sides so deeply indented with numerous bays and harbours, that no part of it lies above three miles from the sea. Thus the territory may be considered as wholly maritime. The next island in point of magnitude is the Island of Yell, which lies to the northward of the Mainland. It is twenty miles long and nearly twelve broad. The coast is bold and rocky, intersected by several bays, or, as they are here called, *Voes*, which form safe harbours. The chief of these are called *Hamna Voe*, *Burra Voe*, and *Mid Yell Voe*. The surface is pretty level, with several small lakes,

Unst.

which are the sources of a few rivulets. Unst is the most northern of the Shetland Isles, and the most northern territory belonging to the British empire; and for that reason may be accounted deserving of special notice. Its form is of an irregular oblong figure. In comparison with the other Shetland Isles, Unst is reckoned level, yet its surface is diversified by several extensive and moderately high hills. Vallafiel, rising within a mile and a half of its southern extremity, runs in a direction parallel to the western coast, and, under different names, to the very northern point. Saxaforth, a hill of considerable height, and the highest in the island, lies towards its northern end. Crossfield stands nearly in the middle, and at right angles to Vallafield. Vordhill stretches out parallel to the east coast. Tracts of level ground are interspersed among these hills. The highest of the hills are still covered with moss or black peat-earth to the depth of some feet. On such as are lower (and there are several besides these which have been enumerated), the mosses have been exhausted, and the bare rocks appear here and there through a thin layer of mould covered with a green dry sward, which yields excellent pasture. The hill of Saxaforth is not less than 700 feet high, and may be seen fourteen leagues off

the coast. Vallafield rises to the height of 600 feet. The island is intersected by no rivers, but contains (in proportion to its extent at least) many small fresh water lakes. Loch Cliff is two miles long, and nearly half a mile broad. The scenery is pleasant along its banks. A chain of smaller lochs runs from Cliff to the southern end of the island. The sea-coast of Unst being broken and indented by so many bays and creeks, its extent cannot be easily ascertained; nor has any accurate measurement of it been yet attempted. Several islets are scattered here and there around it. All the shores exposed to the main ocean, but especially the headlands, rise to the height of sixty or seventy fathoms. The shores of the bays and harbours again are low, shelving, and sandy. The longest day in the island of Unst is nineteen hours fifteen minutes, and of consequence the shortest day is four hours and forty-five minutes. General Description.

The Island of Bressay is about four miles long and two broad. It lies to the eastward of the Mainland by a strait called Bressay Sound. This sound forms one of the best harbours in the world. Here the Dutch herring fleet was accustomed to rendezvous about the middle of June till their country was conquered by the French, and they were involved in war with Britain. Adjoining to Bressay, and on the south-east side of it, is the small Island of Noss, one of the finest and most fertile of the Shetland Isles. To the south of the Island of Noss there is a rock or holm, perpendicular on all sides, and about 150 feet high. The opposite rock on the island is of the same height, and distant from the other 240 feet. The holm, which is quite level at the top, produces excellent grass, and maintains a number of sheep during the summer season. Notwithstanding the perpendicular precipices which made it inaccessible on all sides, the apparent richness of the pasture, Bressay, &c.

General Description.

and the number of sea-fowls which breed upon it, many years ago induced the proprietor to endeavour to fall on some means of passing between the island and it. Accordingly a daring islander attempted to climb up, and succeeded. He fixed posts in the ground about two feet and a half from each other; and having ropes stretched across to corresponding posts on the island, a wooden cradle, which slides along the ropes, affords a safe conveyance between the island and the holm. The adventurer who first ascended the rock would not take the benefit of returning by the cradle, but attempting to return the way he came up, fell down and was killed. The islands of Barra and House are situated on the west side of the Mainland, and separated from it by a narrow sound. They lie so near to one another that there is a communication between them by a bridge. They are about four miles long and nearly one broad. Havora, another small island, is situated about half a mile to the southward of Burra and Papa on the north-west. Besides these are a variety of other inconsiderable isles, as Trendary, Fetlar, Papastow, Meikle and Little Rho, Skerries, &c. The whole islands that have any inhabitants amount to seventeen, but they contain little that deserves particular description. The island of Foula, however, or Fule, ought not to pass unnoticed. It is supposed to be the *Ultima Thule* of the ancients, not only from the mere analogy of the name, but also from more undoubted testimony; for Tacitus, speaking of the Roman general Agricola, regarding his victories and the distance to which he penetrated northward, thus expresses himself: "Invenit dominitque insulas quas vocant Orcades despectaque Thule." Now, Foula, which is high ground, is easily seen in a clear day from the northern part of the Orkneys. It is about three miles in length, and one and a half in breadth. It is situated nearly twenty

Foula.

miles distant from any land to the westward of the clusters of Orkney and of Shetland; to which last it is politically annexed. It is very bold and steep towards the west; and the only landing place, which is called Ham, lies on the east side, and is much resorted to as a fishing station. General Description.

These islands, though much neglected on account of their remote situation and other disadvantages, contain nearly as much land as the Orkneys, and are computed to be nearly equal in extent to the Dutch Provinces, which at one period made such a distinguished figure in Europe. The islands are not, upon the whole, mountainous; though, at the same time, their surface is high, irregular, hilly, and covered to a great extent with moors and mosses; and their coast is bold. In general, the mountains are less in the islands towards the north. In the parish of North Mevan, which is a peninsula belonging to the Mainland, is the highest hill in the islands. It is called Rona's Hill. It is eight miles in length and four in breadth. It was found by geometrical mensuration to be 3944 feet above the level of the sea. From the summit of the hill is exhibited an extensive, noble, and pleasing prospect, fifty miles at least in every direction, having the ocean for a horizon. The numerous islands scattered beneath, and curiously intersected by the sea, and often a distant view of vessels, which frequent these coasts in the summer season, afford a prospect infinitely diversified and agreeable. On the highest eminence there is a house constructed of four large stones, and two covering the top for a roof, under which six or seven persons may sit. It is called the watch-house; and was probably used in ancient times to give notice of the enemy or any approaching danger. A pyramidal tower of small stones is erected on the top of it. This hill is a land-mark to the fishers all round the Extent. Highest mountain, Rona.

Coast. country, and generally the first land seen by ships if they fall to the west of the country coming from their northern voyages.

Sea-coast. On the sea-coast a great part of the shore is in many places formed by bold and inaccessible rocks, particularly towards the west or north-western side of the Mainland. For example, in the parish of North Mevan, which forms the northern district of the Mainland, one rock is remarkable as rising perpendicular on all sides to a great height above the surface of the sea, and at a few miles distance has the appearance of a ship with all her sails set. It makes a good direction for vessels coming into Hillswick harbour, keeping to the east of that rock and half way from the shore. Near to this are two very high pillars, on which the large kind of cormorants nestle; and, what is remarkable, only successively, for the rock that is possessed by them one year is deserted the next, and returned to again after being a year unpossessed. In this manner have these rocks been occupied from time immemorial. Both rocks are inaccessible. These immense pillars are of the same materials with the crags on the shore, which are of a stupendous height, and seem to have been separated by the force of the waves rather than by volcanoes or any other eruptions. There is a holm called Dorholm, from a remarkable arch passing through its centre, which is very lofty and spacious, and under which boats fish; and there is an opening from the top, which gives light to those below. Next to this is the Holm and Isle of Stenness, which abound with kittywakes, filling every projection and every hole which can afford them any shelter. The new-fledged young are much esteemed as delicate food, and taken in great plenty. To the northward of this is a rock, the summit of which has never been trodden by man, and is called the Maiden Skerry. In

the summer season it is occupied by the largest or black-backed gulls, who nestle on it undisturbed. About two miles from this shore there is a large and high rock called Ocean Skerry. It is a good direction for ships from the north, if wanting a harbour. Under it the fishing boats, with easterly winds, are happy to reach a place which will give them leave to rest upon their oars. Coast.

There is a large natural cave in the island of Papa that has three entrances, through which the sea ebbs and flows. It is so wide as to allow a large boat to enter with the oars at full length on each side, and becomes gradually larger as one advances towards the centre, where it is beautifully arched. The direction being crooked, it is dark in the middle; a circumstance which seldom fails to strike with awe the mind of the beholder. The least noise increases the solemn impression. It divides into several apartments. Beyond the centre there is a small aperture in the top, that admits a feeble light for the direction of the boat. Caverns.

Around the coast of Unst are several remarkable natural caves. At Sha there is one, the roof of which is supported by natural pillars of an octagonal figure. At Burra Frith there are a number of caves opening from the sea, and running backwards under the hills. The greater part of these are too low and narrow to admit a boat, but are not accessible by any other means. One only is visited once a-year, and plundered of the seals by which it is frequented. Eastward from the Bay of Burra Frith, under an arm of the hill of Saxaforth, there is a grand natural arch, wide enough to admit a boat to row through it, 300 feet in length and of considerable height. A short way eastward from this there is another, but of a less magnificent appearance.

Agriculture. There are about twenty large proprietors, and a considerable number of small ones, in the Shetland Islands. The land-rent of the whole is said to be about L.5000 *per annum*; but the rent of his lands forms always the smallest part of the revenue of a Shetland laird. As the whole territory is maritime, every proprietor is concerned in the fisheries, and his tenants are his fishermen; a circumstance which, as will be afterwards noticed, greatly affects the state of the common people.

Soil. There is a great diversity of soil in the Shetland Islands; often deep moss with a sandy bottom; sometimes the moss or peat is only about a foot deep over a stratum of clay. That part of the land which has been longest under cultivation consists, in general, of a mixture of clay and small stones. When the substratum is limestone, the grounds are much more fertile, and the crops are earlier. It is computed that there are 25,000 acres of arable land, and about 23,000 of meadow and good pasture, in Shetland; but as these islands are only cultivated along the sea-coast, the ground employed in husbandry bears no proportion to the waste and uncultivated parts. The present extent of the arable ground might be quadrupled, and in some places made tenfold by labour and exertion.

Crops. The only grains cultivated are that sort of barley known under the name of bear or big, and a small kind of black or grey oat. The rotation of crops in the infield, or better kind of arable land, is as follows: First year, oats; second year, bear with dung; third year, potatoes and oats. The land occupied by potatoes and oats the third year is manured for bear the next season. Fallowing is not practised; so that, in general, there is a plentiful crop of weeds; the potatoe crops being the only one that can at all tend to clean the ground. Sea-weed is much used as a manure, sometimes by itself, but oft-

ener mixed in small dunghils with earth or dung from the *byres* or cow-houses. In general, however, very little attention is paid to the making of dunghils. Although limestone abounds in many parts of the country, and they have plenty of peats or turf for burning it, yet lime is seldom used as a manure. In the very few instances where it has been tried, it was found of the greatest benefit, especially on poor mossy soil, which is commonly overrun with sorrel, against which lime is the best preventative. Agriculture.

Carts are not used, except two or three by gentlemen, for the best of all reasons, that in Shetland there are no roads made by art. They are less necessary, on account of the country being in all directions intersected by long narrow bays, or arms of the sea. The ploughs are of a very simple construction, being probably the sort that prevailed over the whole of the kingdom, and even, in ancient times, over the European world. These ploughs are made of a small crooked piece of wood, at the end of which is fixed a slender pliable piece of oak that is fastened to the yokes laid across the necks of the oxen. The man who holds the plough walks by its side, and directs it with a stilt or handle fixed on the top of it. The driver, if he can be so called, goes before the oxen, and pulls them on by a rope tied round their horns; and some people with spades follow the plough to level the furrow and break the clods. A man may bear this plough to any distance in one hand. The other implements of husbandry are all of the meanest construction. Owing to the smallness of the farms, the ground is frequently delved instead of ploughed. The spades, however, are so small and ill made, that two or three persons can hardly turn over as much ground as could easily be done by one good workman with a spade of a better form. When the extent of Instruments of husbandry.

Agriculture.

the farm will admit of a plough, oxen are more generally used than horses.

The seed-time commonly begins about the middle of March, but it varies in different parts of the country. It is earliest in the parishes of Tingwall, Whiteness, Weesdale, and Dunrossness, where the soil is drier than in most other places, and in general has a limestone bottom. It is impossible to state precisely the time of harvest, so various are the seasons in so high a latitude. Sometimes the crop is gathered in before the 20th of September; at other times, in less favourable years, the harvest is not over before the beginning of November. When the harvests are so late, there is little food for man, and the fodder for the cattle is the only valuable part of the crop. Even that is often so much damaged by the rains, that it cannot afford either a wholesome or nourishing food for any species of stock. The land is almost wholly in open fields, there being but few inclosures. The very small proportion of land that is under cultivation is divided, but the extensive hill pastures remain in common. There have been many proposals for dividing these commons; but hitherto no effectual step has been taken. Indeed, under the present Shetland system, a division could be attended with very little advantage; for unless the sheep and cattle were attended by proper shepherds, it would be impossible to confine the stock of cattle, sheep, &c. within any prescribed boundaries. Some of the waste lands might be improved; in some places they might be made to carry crops of barley and oats, the only grains of which the clite seems to admit. A great part might no doubt, in a different climate, be planted to advantage; but there has not as yet been any proper attempt made to ascertain that important point, whether trees can grow in Shetland. Certain it is, they have once grown there, as the roots of trees

are still found in many of the bogs and mosses. Nothing, however, is attempted in planting, from a rooted prejudice that trees could not thrive under such a climate, and where they are so much exposed to the sea-spray. At present the fishing is all in all; and so long as this rage continues, it is hardly to be hoped that any effectual improvement of the soil will ever be attempted by the proprietors. They consider the fishing as yielding an immediate profit; whereas any attempt to improve the soil could only afford a distant prospect of gain, and consequently is less attractive. Agriculture.

As already mentioned, there are no roads in Shetland, either public or parochial. The traveller goes on his way, in the best manner he can, along the footpaths made through the hills by the repeated treading of the sheep, &c. which pasture at large. The small horses, the breed of these islands, keep their feet amazingly well in the narrow paths; but the inhabitant of any other country would hardly trust himself on horseback along the greater part of the Shetland roads. The natives, so far from attempting any *new* improvements of roads, never pay the least attention to that article. The farmhouses are generally mean, but not more so than might be expected from the general smallness of the farms. The offices are in general despicable; and no wonder. The landlord builds the dwelling-house at his own expence; the tenant must be at the expence of building and keeping in repair what office-houses may be necessary. These are always erected by the tenant in the easiest way possible, because he does not know how long he may enjoy them; he may be removed next year. There are very few written leases granted in Shetland. The general covenant between landlord and tenant is, that the tenant shall adventure in fishing for behoof of his landlord

Animals. so long as he possesses the farm. Any failure of this is the forerunner of a removal. When lands are let to a tenant, no stipulations are made as to the mode of agriculture; he may impoverish, or he may improve the ground; no question is asked on this head by the proprietor.

Animals. It is well known that the domestic animals of this country are the smallest of any in the dominions belonging to the British crown. This is evidently owing to the scantiness of their food. Neither artificial grasses nor green crops are cultivated, nor are there any inclosures capable of protecting such crops from the multitude of sheep, cattle, and horses, which pasture on the commons in winter unattended by any herdsman. The different kinds of stock might certainly be improved by proper care in the breeders; but very little attention has hitherto been paid to any improvement, except by attempting the introduction of breeds from other countries, which has not been attended with much success. The climate is unfavourable to animals brought from warmer regions. The scanty herbage in summer, and the general scarcity of fodder in winter, seem to be much against the introduction of larger breeds than those now in the islands, unless accompanied by other agricultural improvements. Some attempts made to introduce breeds of sheep from England and Scotland have been followed with the most ruinous consequences, by bringing over two fatal distempers, the rot and blindness, never before known among the Shetland sheep.

Horses. Great numbers of horses are bred here: they are of a very small size, the least from nine to ten hands high, the larger eleven hands. They are full of spirit, and can bear fatigue much better in proportion than larger horses. They are evidently the Norway horse, reduced in size by scanty fare. They are never put into a house, nor re-

ceive any food except what they gather from the ground. Their principal use is bringing home peat for fuel. Animals.

The cows of Shetland are also of a small size; but, in point of shape, inferior to those of the Western Highlands of Scotland. When fat, some of the cows will weigh from two to three hundred weight, and some of the oxen from three to four hundred weight; but the common run is much smaller. The quantity of milk which these cows yield is not very considerable. When milked thrice a-day, they give a Scottish chopin (an English quart) each time. Both in summer and winter they are kept in the house every night. Not having plenty of straw for litter, that defect is supplied with heath, and sometimes with peat dust. These cattle have but little food either summer or winter. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that the cows should give little milk, and that the oxen should do little work. The only places they have, calculated to fatten cattle for the butcher, are the small isles, or *holms*, that are uninhabited. Most of them produce fine succulent pasture, where cattle that were formerly on scanty allowance soon become very fat. It is probable that their cows were either more numerous formerly, or yielded more milk than at present; for more than one half of the land-rents were of old paid in butter, though now in general converted into money. It is said that there are 30,000 cows in Shetland, 1000 oxen, and 10,000 young cattle; making in all 41,000 head. They make very little cheese in Shetland; and many of their people are yet ignorant how to manufacture it. The method of making butter is as follows: They put all the milk they can spare into a churn, which in two or three days becomes full; they then churn it; and when the butter is about to separate from the serum, some red-hot stones are thrown in, and the churning is continued till the butter Horned cattle. Butter.

Animals. separate and float at top. When they have taken the butter out of the churn, the more attentive dairy maids wash it completely and salt it; and it is certain that the Shetland butter carefully made is equal to any that can be found in any country; but when made in part payment of rent, it is bad to a proverb. The butter milk, here called *bellach*, is boiled, and whatever floats above it taken off and used for food; the remainder, which they call *bland*, is their ordinary drink. Some of it is kept till winter; and it is believed by the inhabitants to be very wholesome, and, in particular, useful to those who live so much upon fish.

Swine. Great numbers of hogs are bred in Shetland. They are of a smaller size than those in Scotland, and are particularly distinguished for the shortness of their back. They are easily fed, and might be made of much greater use to the inhabitants than they are at present.

Sheep. The most important part of the live stock of these islands is their sheep. It is now pretty clearly ascertained, that the celebrated Shetland breed of sheep came originally from Denmark and Norway along with the first adventurers, who settled in those islands many centuries ago. It is calculated that there are from 110,000 to 120,000 sheep in the Shetland islands. These valuable animals produce more profit with less trouble than any other article. Were they properly attended to, both the quantity and the value of their wool might be greatly augmented.

Wool. In the Report of the Committee of the Highland Society of Scotland upon the subject of Shetland wool, the following remarks are made. "It would appear that the permanent fineness of the wool depends entirely upon the breed of sheep; for on the same pasture, and in the very same climate, sheep with the *finest* and with the *coarsest* wool are maintained; insomuch that from the wool of the same flock, some stockings worth *two guineas* per pair, and

others worth less than *fourpence*, are produced. It would appear that there are two kinds of sheep producing fine wool, to be found in these islands: One known by the name of the *kindly sheep*, whose whole body almost is covered with it; another, whose wool is fine about the neck only, and other particular parts of the body. The colour of the fine wool also varies, sometimes being of a pure white, which is supposed to be the softest and most silky; at other times of a light grey, sometimes of a black, and sometimes of a russet colour. The sheep producing this wool are of a breed which, for the sake of distinction, might be called *beaver sheep*; for, like that animal, many of them have long hairs growing amongst the wool, which cover and shelter it; and the wool is a species of fine fur resembling down, which grows in some measure under the protection of the hair with which the animal is covered. Your committee understand that the sheep producing this fine wool are of the hardiest nature; are never housed, nor kept in any particular pasture: and that in the winter season they are often so pinched for food, that many of them are obliged to feed upon the sea-ware driven upon the shore. It is observed, however, that the healthiest sheep are those which live constantly upon the hills, and never touch the sea-ware. Lastly, It appears that the Shetland sheep are never clipt or shorn; but that about the beginning of June the wool is pulled off (which is done without the smallest pain or injury to the animal), leaving the long hairs, as already mentioned, which shelter the young wool, and contribute to keep the animal warm and comfortable at a season of the year when cold and piercing winds may occasionally be expected in so northern a latitude." Animals.

The same committee reported that they had reason to believe, "That some remains of the same breed of sheep may still be found in the Western Islands, and perhaps in

Animals. some of the remotest parts of the Highlands, where the native race of the mountains have not been contaminated by a connection and intercourse with animals of an inferior species in regard to the quality of their wool, and which are valuable principally for their carcases."

The native breed of Shetland sheep are in general very hardy, and of a much wilder temper than any other. This is particularly the case with regard to such as pasture in the small and uninhabited islands called holms. The pasture on these holms is very dry, and abounds in rich grasses and wild herbs, which render the sheep that are kept in them more spirited and fat, and wholesome, than those fed on the hilly pastures. The quality of the Shetland wool is in general thought to be affected in some measure by the pasture on which the sheep are fed. The rocky pasture (which is generally covered with coarse grass and long heather) produces sheep of a strong hardy nature, but with coarse fleeces, and much varied in the colour. This sort of pasture is found to produce the coarse wool, whether found in the hill grounds, or in the islands or holms. The sheep that pasture upon what passes under the name of blackberry heather, lobba, and mossy pasture, almost always bear the finest wool. The lobba and the berry heather are preferred for feeding sheep; but the lobba is reckoned rather better than the other. It resembles oat-brier in its appearance, is very long, of a hard substance, and is in bloom all the season. It is seldom entirely covered with snow, because of its length, and the snow dissolves sooner on it than on the grass below; and on that account is more accessible to the sheep when deprived of every other resource. The native or *kindly* breed, which bear the soft or *cottony fleeces*, as they are called, are rather of a delicate nature. Their wool is short and open, and destitute of a covering of long hairs found upon the coarse-woolled

sheep, which serves to screen them from the rain, and to preserve them from the inclemency of the weather. These soft-woolled fleeces are very often lost, and rubbed off during the winter, or early in the spring; which, it is supposed, might be prevented by clipping or shearing the sheep. Animals.

The sea-coasts of Shetland are covered with sea-weed, especially in winter, when very great quantities are thrown ashore by the violence of the sea and tides. The sheep, during the winter season, and especially while the ground is covered with snow, devour the sea-weed very greedily; and often, during long and severe snows, they have little else to live on. Nature seems to have imparted to them a perfect knowledge of the times at which this food may be procured; for immediately upon the tide beginning to fall, the sheep, in one body, run directly down to the sea-shores, although feeding on hills several miles distant from the sea, where they remain till the tide returns, when they return back to their usual haunts. The sheep are exposed to great danger, and many are frequently lost, by the tides carrying them off, when they happen to go down into what are called *goes* or *coves*, being very often unable to get up, sometimes from weakness and hunger, and sometimes from the steepness of the rocks, by which means they remain a prey to the next tide, which sweeps them off in numbers. Where sheep are so wild as to be taken only by means of a dog, it might seem extremely difficult to take any particular one out of a large number; but those in the practice of it can, in a few minutes, take one of any given description out of a thousand. Sheepmen are commonly sworn to fidelity in their office; and when a sheep is to be taken, one of these sets out, with his dog close at his foot, or carrying him in his arms, that the sheep may allow him to approach near enough to discover the mark. This point gained, he advances more Sheep fed on sea-ware

Animals. briskly, when the flock begin to break and divide before him; and in proportion as the division which carries with it the marked one diminishes in number, it increases in fear and speed. The man, no longer equal to the task, assigns it to his companion, by this time grown impatient to act his part. Such sheep as happen to be now before the dog begin presently to break into new divisions, while the sheepman, keeping a sharp eye on the object of his pursuit, directs every motion of his dog, by a different call, by the course he himself takes, or even by the waving of his hand; all which being readily understood and obeyed by a well-trained dog, the victim is seized, and, for the most part, without receiving any material injury. The more sagacious sheep-dogs trip them over, by laying hold of one of their fore-legs, and thereby effectually prevent them from advancing a step farther. When the sheep finds himself thus overcome, he ceases all further effort, and lies almost motionless at the feet of the dog until the sheepman lay hold of him.

In Shetland they have few goats, no hares or foxes; and, in general, few wild or ravenous creatures of any kind, except rats and mice, which are found on a few of the islands. The tame fowls are geese, ducks, pigeons,

Fowls. dunghil fowls, and a few turkeys. The wild land-fowls are plovers, pigeons, curlews (commonly called whaap), snipes, red-hanks, herons, torrics (such is the vulgar name), black heads, eagles, merlins, goshawks, ravens, crows, allens, starlings, grey linnets, larks, sparrows, robins, wrens, horse-gauks, corn-craiks, land-larks, and stone-chatters. The birds of passage are swans, snowflakes, and a few owls. The sea-fowls that haunt these shores are auks or marrots, gulls, and of these several varieties; cormorants, kittywakes, tomnorries, lyres, calloos, wild geese, and ember geese. The eagles called the erne

are very ravenous and destructive among the lambs; and the ravens and crows are little less so, at least in proportion to their size. By the police of the country, a reward of 3s. 4d. may be claimed by every person who kills an erne, 3d. for a corbie or raven, and 2d. for a crow. These rewards are paid by the commissioners of the land-tax, at sight of the heads of the fowls that have been killed. All the friths and rocks are frequented by innumerable flocks of migratory birds. The kittywakes are, however, most numerous. Their nests are placed usually upon the heights of rocks, and on the brink of precipices 60 or 100 fathoms high, and in many places projecting awfully over the depth below. Although in situations seemingly so inaccessible, yet these nests are plundered by the inhabitants in spring of many of the eggs, and in August of the young fowls. The danger attending this robbery of the nest does not deter the plunderers. They sometimes sail in boats to the bottom of the precipices, and climb upwards; sometimes they approach the brink above, and let each other down by ropes. Even at night, so fearless are these islanders, they will wander among the rocks to surprise the old fowls upon the nests. The female parent often exhibits, upon such occasions, remarkable proofs of natural affection, beating the invader with her wings, pecking him with her bill, and even suffering herself to be taken upon the nest, rather than desert the protection of her young. The eggs and carcases of these fowls form a considerable part of the food of the inhabitants upon these coasts in the season when they are to be obtained. The feathers are also an article of considerable value. Fowls.

The mineralogy of these islands is not of great importance in a political or general point of view. Unst, which we have already mentioned as the most northern of the isles, abounds in iron-stone, which, however, has not yet been ap- Minerals.

Mineralogy. Iron, jasper, &c.

plied to any useful purpose. The same island affords large veins of jasper, some pieces of which are beautifully variegated with black and green shades and spots. Rock crystal, remarkable for its purity and hardness, has likewise been found here. A beautiful piece of garnet, having twelve equal parallelogramic sides, was lately picked from a rock. Through the sparry rocks, cubical bits of sulphur, of a bright gold colour, are often found. A species of rough stone, of a long grain, a greyish colour in appearance, somewhat similar to decayed wood, fit for building, and very suitable for lintels, is found at Muness and Norwick. At Litlagarth there is a vein of dark brownish freestone, of a very durable nature. A soft stone, commonly named *elemel*, and fit for moulds, is also among those which this island affords. Great plenty of white spar, or perhaps quartz, rounded by the action of the waves, is thrown upon the sea-beach. Some specimens of a greyish slate have been tried, but no quarries of it are wrought. Limestone abounds at Cliff; from which the vein proceeds in a south-westerly direction to Laxaberness, the south-west extremity of the island. The whole island abounds in clay of a very tough quality, and apparently very fit for bricks or pottery. A whitish substance, which seems to be an inferior species of marl, is found at Maya Sound. Substances which seem to be ocherous or bituminous are also to be seen here and there; and matter of a naphthalic appearance has been observed upon the edges of some wells. A variety of beautiful shells are scattered upon these shores, among which are the John-o-Groat's buckie and the unicorn's horn. The sponge called *mermaid's glove* is often taken up upon this coast by the fishermens hooks. A great variety of corals, branching out in irregular forms, is likewise found here. The sea-apple is also plenteous.

Abundance of iron ore is found in the island of Fetlar.

A little below the clergyman's house, there is a loch which throws up on the south-east side, when the wind blows from the north-west, a kind of ferruginous black sand. Near the loch, on the rising ground, there appears to be abundance of that sort of ore; from a quantity of it the magnet extracts five-eighths of the whole. There are also found in the same island some veins of copper ore, together with the *lapis asbesticus* of the filamentous kind, and some few garnets, and a great quantity of fuller's earth, and pieces of rock crystal; also some limestone, very poor in quality, one small vein excepted. Limestone, freestone, or slate, however, are found in several of the islands; but in general the slate is of an inferior quality. Several chalybeate springs are found in some quarters, but none of them are accounted of any importance. One is in the vicinity of the town of Lerwick. Mineralogy.

The Shetland Isles contain only two towns or villages, Lerwick and Scallaway. Lerwick is situated on the Mainland, is the capital of the isles, and the seat of the courts held by the sheriff-depute or steward-depute. The town stands on the spacious harbour called Lerwick, or Bressay Sound, and derives its only consequence from the courts of law, and the resort of the vessels employed in the whale-fishery, which make this bay their place of rendezvous. Near the north end of the town is a small fortification, called Fort Charlotte, which commands the north entry to Bressay Sound, and is garrisoned by a small detachment of invalids. The town is about half a mile in length, and is irregularly built, but contains some good houses, with a small, polite, and hospitable society. In Bressay Sound, or Lerwick harbour, vessels well found may ride at all seasons in perfect safety; and what renders this harbour particularly commodious, is its having two entries, one from the south and Villages. Lerwick.

Villages. another from the north. On the outside of the north entry lies a sunk rock, called the Unicorn. When the Earl of Bothwell fled to Shetland, the Unicorn man of war was dispatched in pursuit of him. On the appearance of the Unicorn, his ship, then lying in Bressay Sound, was got immediately under weigh, and sailed out at the north entry, followed hard by the other; and having a pilot on board, got to sea, by which means he made his escape, and landed at Norway; while the chasing ship was wrecked on that rock, which has ever since been called the Unicorn. Scallaway, which stands also upon the Mainland, is more ancient than Lerwick, but it is an extremely trifling village. It lies on the south coast, with an excellent harbour, in 60° 9′ north latitude, and 31′ west longitude. Near it is the ancient Castle of Scallaway, built by one of the Earls of Orkney.

Scallaway.

The remains of antiquity in these islands, especially the buildings called *Picts houses*, which here abound, resemble those of Orkney, of which enough was formerly said.

Fisheries. The most important object in Shetland consists of the fisheries. The boats employed in the cod, ling, and tusk fishing, go out at twelve o'clock the one day, and do not return until three, and sometimes six, the following one. The distance they go is from five to twelve leagues, or until they lose sight of the land. Their size is from sixteen to nineteen feet long. Those on the west side of the islands are of the largest kind, and about six feet wide and four and a half deep, but so light, that the men who go in them can draw them up some distance from the sea. The size of boats that seems to be the best calculated for carrying on the fishing to advantage is thirty feet keel, ten feet wide, and five deep, with a deck and lug-sails; their mast to strike, and to row with oars in calm weather; to have long floors and clear rims fore and aft.

Sir John Sinclair, in his "View of the Agriculture of the Northern Counties and Islands of Scotland," has published the following account of the number of boats employed in the islands in 1767, from which period it is supposed not to have materially altered. Fisheries.

		Number of Fishermen.
290	Boats, with six men each, employed in carrying on the fishery at sea - -	1740
100	Ditto, with five men to a boat, going from five to ten leagues off - - -	500
60	Ditto, with four men, going to the same distance, for the purpose of fishing -	240
150	Ditto, with two old men and two boys, that fish among the islands - - -	600
	Employed in curing the fish and transporting necessaries - - - - - -	420
		3500

The produce of the fishery, and also of such of the articles as were exported at the same period from these islands, it may not be improper to specify.

200,000	Ling fish, at L.50 per thousand -		L.10,000
10,000	Cod fish, at L.20 per ditto - -		200
80,000	Tusk fish, at L.12, 10s. per ditto -		1,000
10,000	Seath fish, at L.17, 10s. per ditto -		175
300,000			L.11,375
600	Barrels of oil, at 40s. per barrel,	L.1,200	
300	Ditto of butter, at 50s. -	875	
50,000	Pairs coarse stockings, at 6d. per pair - - -	1,250	
	Rugs and fine stockings -	400	
400	Daker calf-skins, at 5s. per skin	100	
	Rabbit and seal skins - -	40	
			3,865

Goods annually exported, L.15,240.

Fisheries. *Goods imported for the Use of the Fisheries*

Corn, spirits, and tobacco, about -	L.710	
Lines and hooks - - -	400	
		L.1,110
Stores for the rest of the islands -	600	
Salt for curing the fish - - -	600	
		1,200
Total imports,		L. 2,310
Balance,		12,930

Value of goods exported, as above, L.15,240

The great wealth of Shetland certainly arises from its fisheries; for, besides the cod, ling, and tusk, which are to be found on the coast, though generally at some distance from the shore, it is well known that the surrounding seas are full of immense quantities of herrings. In time of peace, from 400 to 500 busses formerly rendezvoused among these islands; but since the Dutch were driven from the trade, the numbers have been very fluctuating.

State of the poor. The ordinary or lower class of inhabitants in Shetland are, upon the whole, represented as in a depressed and miserable condition. Their country is, in general, so bleak and rude, that, as Buchannan says, "adeo fera, ut nullum animal, nisi illic natum, ferat." The tides are here trifling, and the currents between the islands are not of that rapid and furious description which appears in those between the Orkney Islands; but, during a long, dark, and cold winter, the Shetland Isles are surrounded by a tempestuous ocean. The islands themselves do not produce provisions to support their inhabitants more than seven or eight months in the year, and during the rest of

the time they depend upon foreign supplies. It is true, that by their fisheries they have something to give in return for the corn of better climates: but matters are so managed, that the common people must be extremely dependant. As already noticed, every Shetland laird is engaged in the fisheries, and derives greater profit from them than from his lands. Hence the proprietors of land are a sort of traders, who derive more profit from their commerce than from their estates. Their lands, therefore, are made subservient to their traffic; and they naturally assume somewhat of the monopolizing spirit of the traders. Every proprietor endeavours to establish on his estate as large a number of people as possible, because he thus obtains a greater number of fishermen. Farms, therefore, are divided and subdivided; and waste lands are allotted to all who are willing to settle on them. Young men are encouraged to marry by the facility of obtaining small possessions; and when government makes a demand of a number of men for the service of the navy, as a condition of granting a protection to the remainder, care is taken by the gentlemen to pitch upon unmarried men to be sent off to the navy. Thus a premium for early marriages is held out; and the consequence is, that the population is rendered greatly superior, as already noticed, to what the islands can support. The young men, having more numerous families than they can well maintain, are speedily involved in difficulties; they have no leases of their possessions; and whatever fish they take must be sold to their landlord at a fixed price. As the proprietors can more easily than these poor people combine to fix a rate of payment, the advantage is on the side of the purchaser, and the prices low. The common people are thus always in difficulties, and are often under the necessity of applying for assistance to their landlords in bad seasons,

Population.

Population. when their crop or their fisheries fail. This relief, in case of general misfortune, is always granted; because the landlords, as traders, know that they must support their stock of servants: but in this way a state of extreme dependance is produced. Hence it will not appear surprising, that although every temptation is held out to induce young persons to fix themselves in the islands by marriage, and having families there, yet considerable numbers enter as seamen on board the merchant ships that touch at these islands, or enter as volunteers in the royal navy. In former times, before the proprietors engaged in the fisheries, a superabundance of population was here considered as ruinous and burdensome to the community; and a prohibition existed in the old regulations, called *Country Acts*, against marriage, unless where the young couple could show they possessed L.40 Scots of free gear. This law is not only now neglected, but a contrary principle so anxiously pursued, that in many instances four families are to be found on a farm that, thirty or forty years ago, was possessed only by one; the great object of the proprietor being to obtain cheap service in his fishery.

Old law against marriage.

Poor. The parochial poor are not here supported by pensions, as in Scotland; but a parish is divided into districts, and a certain number of the poor are hallotted upon each. The pauper is sent from house to house, and resides and is supported a certain number of days in each house in succession. The common people are extremely fond of the luxuries of tea and snuff; and gin is imported to them in abundance. Notwithstanding their poverty they are cheerful; and dancing is a very favourite amusement.

The following account has been often repeated of the manner in which Shetland was originally peopled: That about the year 850, Kenneth the Second, King of the

Scots, gave the Picts such a total defeat, that they never, by themselves, attempted to engage with the Scots in battle thereafter, but were compelled to fly to the northward; as is recorded by Bede, Boethius, and other ancient historians: and the frith that separates Caithness from Orkney is sometimes called the *Pentland Frith*, from a number of the Picts being drowned in their passage over to Orkney, in order that they might escape from the fury of the Scots. As the number of Picts who landed in Orkney could not be accommodated in that country, they set sail again for the next spot of land which was in their view, which could be no other than the island of Foula; but upon their near approach to that island, they were much at a loss what course they should next take. Some of them are supposed to have observed a thickness and mist lying directly to the north-east of Foula, and accordingly steered their course towards it, and, to their great joy, discovered Shetland; upon which the one who first observed it cried out in raptures, *Zetland! i. e.* "there is yet land, and we shall be safe." Hence the origin of the name, it being common with the Saxons to use Z instead of Y in their language. The Picts, upon their landing in this new country, erected a number of small castles, called afterwards *boroughs*, upon which they lighted fires, as signals of an approaching enemy; and so contrived that the whole of Shetland might be apprized of danger in less than an hour. Having now secured themselves in the best manner they could in these islands, till then uninhabited, they sent over ambassadors to the court of Norway to solicit aid against the Caledonians, that they might regain the country from whence they had been lately expelled. Their request was readily complied with by the warlike Harold King of Norway, who warmly espoused their cause; and accordingly a powerful

Supposed Discovery.

Supposed Discovery.

fleet was sent to sea without delay, and arrived at the island of Fetlar: But as Harold could not there procure safe anchorage for his fleet, he sailed to the island of Unst, to a bay which still retains his name, being called *Harold's Wick*; and by the tradition of the country it is handed down, that it was from this circumstance it acquired its name. Harold remained there with his fleet till he had collected all the Picts in Shetland capable of bearing arms, and then he set sail for the coasts of Sutherland and Caithness. Of both these counties he made an easy conquest, and they became tributary to the kings of Norway. Being afterwards driven from Sutherland and Caithness, and thereby frustrated in their expectation of regaining their country, the Picts were reduced to the necessity of returning to Orkney and Shetland, where a number of Danish adventurers mingled with them, and with whom they intermarried.

This account undoubtedly contains much fable, intermixed perhaps with a portion of truth. That a number of Picts might leave their country, along with several of their chiefs, when the sovereignty of the south of Scotland was transferred from them to the Scots, is very probable; but that the whole body of a people accustomed to agriculture, and acquainted with architecture, should at once emigrate in ships, is extremely unlikely; especially as wars, in those times, were very desultory, and the most trifling fortress could resist a mighty army. That the Pentland or Pictland Frith should derive its name from a number of men drowned in it in a passage, is much less likely than that it should receive its appellation from being situated in the midst of the country of the northern Picts, between Caithness and Sutherland on the one hand, and Orkney and Shetland on the other. It is not very probable that Shetland should, for the first time, have been

discovered by Picts sailing from the coast of Angus or Fife in quest of a settlement, seeing that, at the same date, the Orkneys were inhabited, and the Norwegians were a maritime power. To this day, a single Greenlander, in his boat covered with skins, is sometimes seen upon the coasts of Orkney, being driven thither by a tempest, and he returns home without difficulty. It is evident, therefore, that the Shetland Isles must have been known, and probably peopled, at an earlier period than that alluded to; although there is little doubt, that in consequence of the Norwegian conquest under Harold, the original inhabitants came to be mingled with considerable numbers of Norwegians and Danes. Supposed Discovery.

Although the Orkney and Shetland Islands form only one county, yet as they consist of totally distinct groups of isles, we shall state the population of them in separate tables.

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	Total of Persons.
Birsay	—	—	679	772	772	271	408	1451
Burray	—	—	129	142	265	6	—	271
Cross, Burness, &c.	1250	1389	625	693	600	106	612	1318
Deerness . . .	1650	1335	289	371	501	16	143	660
Edie	—	—	320	398	124	32	562	718
Evie	1798	1564	360	452	603	26	183	812
Flotta and Faira . .	—	—	123	161	220	1	63	284
Firth	1108	1186	253	379	441	149	42	632
Græmsay . . .	520	410	73	106	174	2	3	179
Harray	2200	2013	331	394	457	97	171	725
Holm	1185	702	373	498	525	114	232	871
Hoy	—	—	117	127	234	4	6	244
Kirkwall, including St Olas . . .	1989	2550	1078	1543	396	365	1860	2621
Ladykirk, in Sanday . .	750	803	401	429	231	45	5	830
Orphir	855	826	383	481	563	36	265	864
Rendall	—	—	289	314	410	23	170	603
Ronsay and Eagleshay	978	1072	472	589	439	33	589	1061
St Andrews .	—	—	371	486	847	6	4	857
Shapinshay . .	642	730	343	401	717	27	—	744
South Ronaldshay	1996	1954	727	883	1554	56	—	1610
Stromness . .	—	—	915	1308	825	535	863	2223
Sandwick . . .	2677	3012	455	515	835	95	40	970
Stronsay and Eaday . .	1493	887	447	477	253	40	631	924
Stenness . . .	—	—	297	343	416	187	37	640
Walls	1000	991	288	421	647	11	51	709
Westray . . .	1290	1629	710	914	1537	87	—	1624
Total . .	23381	23053	10848	13597	14586	2370	6940	24445

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			Total of Persons
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	
Aithstang and Sandstang . .	911	1285	667	826	—	—	—	1493
Brissay, Burray, & Quarff	1098	1225	611	719	—	—	—	1330
Delting	1221	1504	649	800	—	—	—	1449
Dunrossness, Sandwick, and Cunningsburgh	2295	3327	1399	1802	—	—	—	3201
Lerwick . . .	1193	1259	693	1013	62	106	1538	1706
Nesting, Lunasting, Whalsay, and Skerries	1169	1535	856	1085	5	—	—	1941
North Mevan	1009	1786	907	1138	—	—	—	2045
Tingwall, Whiteness, and Weesdale	1412	1786	824	1039	—	—	—	1863
Unst	1368	1988	1016	1243	—	—	—	2259
Walls, Sanness, and Papæstour . .	1450	1723	836	981	—	—	—	1817
Yell, North, and Fetlar	1098	1346	634	755	—	—	—	1389
Yell, South, and Mid Yell	986	1422	698	878	—	—	—	1576
Fair Isle . . .	—	—	80	80	—	—	—	160
Foula ditto . .	—	—	75	75	—	—	—	150
Total of Shetl.	15210	20186	9945	12434	67	106	1538	22379
Orkney . . .	23381	23053	10848	13597	1586	2370	6940	24145
	38591	43239	20793	26031	1653	2476	8478	46824

SUTHERLANDSHIRE.

Extent and boundaries.

RETURNING to what may be called the continent, that is, to the mainland of Scotland, we come, on the west of Caithness, to the county of Sutherland. It is one of the largest in Scotland, containing about 2310 square miles, or 1,478,400 English acres; yet, in consequence of the vast extent of its mountainous districts, its value is far from being considerable. As Caithness forms the north-eastern angle of the island of Great Britain, the county of Sutherland may be considered as the continuation of the island towards the west and south. It extends across the island from sea to sea; it is about eighty miles in length, from north-west to south-east, and forty miles in breadth; bounded on the north-east by Caithness; on the east and south-east by the German Ocean and the Frith of Dornoch; on the south and south-west by Ross-shire; on the west by the Atlantic Ocean; and on the north by the Great North Sea. In the language of the country, it comprehends the districts of Strathnaver on the north-east, Assint on the south-west, and Sutherland properly so called. Strathnaver was formerly a county of itself.

Sutherland must be considered as entirely a Highland county. The Gaelic is throughout the popular language; and, with the exception, perhaps, of a village or two on the east coast, was formerly the sole dialect of the inhabitants. The face of the country is extremely mountainous and rocky. The great body of it exhibits nothing

to the eye but vast groups or piles of mountains towering in succession above each other. The greater part of these appear covered with heath; though their sloping sides, in proportion as they descend, become gradually covered with verdure. Some of these mountains, however, are covered with extensive forests. Amidst this wild and rude magnificence of nature are many valleys, each of which contains a stream, and frequently a lake, of considerable extent; the scenery around which, during the summer, is extremely interesting, more especially in consequence of the effect produced by contrasting the verdant banks of these sheltered waters with the rude mountains and extensive heaths with which they are surrounded. Upon the coast are many fine arable fields; but still the surface, though in a less degree, partakes of the rugged appearance of the interior of the country. Face of the Country.

The general physical structure of the county seems to be this; The chains of mountains diverge like rays from its centre towards the east, the west, and the northern seas, forming between the mountains long and narrow glens, along which the rivers run, and often spread abroad their waters into lakes. Each glen or long strath forms a sort of separate district, sometimes forty miles in length; and the inhabitants at each extremity of such a strath have much more easy communication with each other than with their neighbours at the distance of only six, eight, or ten miles, in the next valley, from whom they are separated by a rude group of rugged and lofty mountains and rocks, the habitations of goats and deer. At the termination of the chains of mountains towards the north and west seas, the valleys between them are so low, that the waters of the ocean form many deep bays, or lochs as they are called in the Highlands.

The northern side of Sutherland may be considered, upon the whole, as running in a direct line from east to west, although, in the manner now mentioned, the sea enters, in North coast.

Waters. many places, far into the land, forming convenient stations for ships. This northern boundary terminates on the west at Cape Wrath or Barve Head (Cape Ebudium of the ancients), which forms the north-west point of the island of Great Britain. From Cape Wrath the coast suddenly turns due south, and is broken, like that already mentioned, by deep bays or arms of the sea. The eastern coast, between the Ord of Caithness on the north-east, and the Frith of Dornoch on the south-west, has also some indentations, by the sea advancing into the bosom of the country; but these are trifling, compared to the long lochs or gulphs on the north and west coasts. The great Frith of Dornoch, however, which divides Sutherland from Ross-shire, at the south-eastern boundary of the former, and north-east of the latter, ought to be considered as an exception.

Holladale river. On the northern side of the county, the first stream is that called Holladale, which forms a part of the boundary with Caithness, and which we formerly mentioned. It takes its rise in the parish of Kildonan, and, taking a northerly direction, falls into the Pentland Frith five or six miles south-east of Strathy Head. Proceeding westward is the stream called Strathy, rising out of a loch of the same name, and falling into a creek called Strathy Bay, formed by the promontory called Strathy Head. These, and other waters, are of little importance in themselves, being chiefly torrents, which, when swelled by the rains that fall in floods on the mountains, become terrific; but in fine weather they are beautiful, but ordinary streams. Next, to the westward, is the stream called Naver or Navern. It rises out of a lake of the same name in the parish of Far. The lake is no less than six miles in length and three in breadth. After a course of twenty-eight or thirty miles, the Navern falls into the ocean near the promontory of Strathy Head.

Naver.

It is the largest river in the county, and gives the name of Strathnaver to the district through which it runs, from whence the Countess of Sutherland takes her second title of baroness. It is to be observed, that from the action of the tempestuous ocean of the north upon the coast here, it is, in every quarter, indented or hollowed out into caverns, some of which are very large. There is a natural arch below Far Head, where a fishing boat may pass with oars. Next, to the westward, on the northern coast, is the river called Torrysdale. It rises out of the Loch Loyal, or Laoghall, in the parish of Tongue. This lake is four miles long and one broad. The river discharges itself into the Northern Sea at the village of Torrysdale. Here the water is twenty yards wide and thirteen feet deep at spring tides. At this village is a salmon-fishing of some value.

Watera.

Torrysdale.

Tongue Bay, to the westward, is a long arm of the sea, skirted on each side with corn fields, inclosed pastures, and farm-houses. It advances five miles into the land. To the westward the coast is high and rocky, and intersected by several small creeks; in one of which (Port Voisgaig) there is a quarry of grey slate, and another of excellent flags, both easily wrought, which are conveyed by boats to different parts of the country. The rocks along the coast are hollowed into caves, or formed into arches or pillars; some of them so regular that they seem to be the work of art. *Uaidhe Mhor Fhraisgill*, the Great Cave of Fraisgill, extends more than half a mile under ground. It is about fifty feet high and twenty feet wide at the entrance, and grows narrow by degrees, till at last a man can scarcely creep in it. Its sides are variegated with a thousand colours, which are lost in each other with a delicacy and softness that no art can imitate. Upon entering the cave, the mind is impressed with a pleasing sort of awe, which is heightened by the solemn gloom-

Tongue Bay.

Coast. iness of the light, the clang of the sea-birds that nestle in it, and the mournful dashing of the waves against the adjacent rocks. Numbers of seals are found in this cave.

Islands. On the coast here are some islands, the chief of which are, *Ealan na Coomb*, or *Ealan na Noimph*, *i. e.* "the Island of Saints;" *Ealan nan Roan*, or "the Island of Seals," and "the Rabbit Island." Ealan na Coomb had formerly a chapel and burial-place in it, the traces of which are still to be seen. On the south side of the island, the sea, after passing for several yards through a narrow channel, spouts up into the air, sometimes to the height of thirty feet, through a hole in a rock, which, in shape and size, is like the moon at full; and a few seconds afterwards, there is a discharge of water from the east side of the island, with a noise and appearance resembling the explosion of a cannon. This happens only when it is half-flood and a smart gale at north-west. Ealan na Roan is about two miles in circumference, and is inhabited by four families, consisting of thirty-six persons. It is formed of a mixture of sand and a reddish kind of pebble, which appear as if baked together. About seventeen years ago, part of the ground near the middle of the island sunk in without any visible cause, and, to use Milton's words,

——left i' the midst a horrid vale.

The Rabbit Island, which lies in the entrance of Tongue Bay, abounds in rabbits. It was formerly called *Ealan a Ghail*, from a combat (tradition says) fought upon it between one Gaulan Torquhil, in which Gaul obtained the victory; though it is as likely it was called *Ealan nan Garil*, "the Island of Strangers," from the Danes having landed upon it.

Between the Bay of Tongue and the next bay to the west,

ward, which is called Loch Erriboll, there is a large tract of low marshy territory. Loch Erriboll is a spacious bay, in which even the smallest sloops enjoy perfect safety, and which appears large enough to receive, perhaps, the whole British navy. On the east it is bounded by the bright and elevated rocks of Whitenhead, which mariners distinguish at a distance even in the night; and on the west by Ruspin, a small dry harbour, lately much improved by the tacksman of the fishings and the kelp shores. At Far-out Head there is a large bay of rough sea, too open to afford shelter for vessels. The Bay of Durness, to the westward, along with Loch Erriboll, insulate a considerable territory. Seals abound on the coast at ebb-tide; scores of them are seen basking in the channel. Cape Wrath is to the westward of these. The shores are almost every where rocky, barren, and even destitute of vegetables. In Loch Erriboll, and indeed in some creeks, *red-ware*, or sea-weed, is produced in such quantity as to afford yearly ten or twelve tons of kelp; and on the shores upon both sides of Far-out Head great quantities of this weed are driven in by the waves, and used for manure by the possessors of the adjoining lands. Great plenty of sponges, but not of the best quality, are also intermixed among these sea-weeds. The tides rush in with great rapidity and violence upon this coast, especially on the headlands, and, above all, at Cape Wrath, where their violence is increased by means of a shoal running out north by east, from the extremity of the cape, for five or six miles, and covered by a depth of water measuring only from sixteen to twenty-four fathoms. About a mile from the coast is the Stongs, a rock the top of which is always above water, but which is nevertheless formidable to ships approaching the cape by night: but a still more dangerous rock, the top of which can be seen

Coast.

Loch Erriboll.

Coast. Remarkable cavern

only in neap-tides, is said to be nine miles due north from the cape. There are several remarkable caves in this neighbourhood, of which that of Smo, or Smoach, is the largest and most magnificent. In the Cave of Smo sounds are distinctly repeated by a remarkable echo. This cave is indeed, in many respects, an object worthy to attract and engage the notice of a curious observer of nature. It is in some places one hundred yards wide. The natural vault is about seventy or eighty yards in height. A short way within the mouth of the cave there is a perforation in the arch, through which a stream of water descends, and is received into a subterraneous lake, that extends backward to a length that has not been ascertained. Tradition says, that the only person that ever had courage to attempt to explore it was one Donald Master of Reay, and that the extinction of the lights by foul air obliged him to return before he could advance to the extremity of the lake, or the boundary of the cave.

Western coast.

After passing Cape Wrath, the western coast of the county contains a variety of bays, or arms of the sea, which form excellent harbours, where shipping of all sizes can enter and moor close to the land, at all hours of the day and night, in perfect safety. Of these harbours are *Loch Badeaut*, erroneously marked Badwel in some draughts of the coast; *Loch Calva*, which signifies literally, in the Celtic, "Good Harbour;" *Laxford*, having several good anchorages, of which *Island an Erinich*, or, the "Irishman's Island," is the best. *Feaunick Moir*, near the entry, is a very safe place. Inchard has also a good harbour; and so has Kyles-aun, near Stirks Island. Great quantities of fish are caught on this coast. Every village, and almost every house, has a boat, nets, and all sorts of fishing tackle.

In the interior of the country are some lakes and wa-

ters. The two chief streams are Inchard and Laxford, in which salmon are caught, as well as abundance of trout. The lakes are stored with variety of trout of all sizes. Of these, Lochmoir, at the distance of seven or eight miles from the sea, is three miles long by half a mile broad, and never freezes in the severest season. Loch Stalk is two miles in length and half a mile broad. Both these lochs are connected by a small stream; and out of the last mentioned runs the considerable river of Laxford. Coast.

On the coast of Assint, also, on the same western side of the county, are a variety of arms of the sea into which vessels can retreat; and among the mountains are various inland lochs. Of the bays or salt-water lochs the most important are, Loch Inver, Ardvarloch, Loch Nedd; in which, and various others, herrings are caught in abundance.

On the eastern coast Helmsdale River is the most northern. Descending from very lofty mountains, and having a considerable arable territory along its banks, its inundations often produce much mischief. To the southward is the stream called Brera, which rises from an inland loch of the same name. This loch is a beautiful sheet of water, four miles in length and near one in breadth. It has an island in the centre, which has some appearance of being artificial. Near it are some beautiful plantations and villages among the mountains. It abounds in salmon; and the river, after forming some fine cascades, falls into the German Ocean a little below the village of Brera. Near the southern boundary of the county is Loch Shin, which is about twenty miles long and from one to two broad; the banks of it, especially on the south side, are covered with natural wood, the property of Mr Monro of Pointzfield. It discharges itself, at its eastern extremity, by the river Shin; which, after a course of six or eight miles, during which it forms Helmsdale river. Loch Shin.

Coast. several great cascades, falls into the head of the Frith of Dornoch at a small village called Invershin.

Frith of Dornoch. The Frith of Dornoch, sometimes called the Frith of Tain, is that arm of the sea which divides the southern parts of Sutherland from the county of Ross. The entrance of this frith is nearly fifteen miles wide, and it gradually becomes narrower, till about three miles west of the town of Dornoch, its breadth is not above two measured miles, where there is a ferry boat called the *Meikle Ferry*. After this it becomes much wider, forming an inner harbour or bay, where another ferry is established, called the *Little Ferry*. At this ferry is an excellent roadstead, where vessels of considerable burden can lie at anchor; but a bar runs across the entrance, which is of great detriment. However, vessels of 500 tons are said to have water on this bar at spring tides. On the Sutherland coast, too, in calm weather, vessels of small burden may lie in safety; but a formidable bar extends from this coast almost to the south side of the Frith, called (from the incessant noise) the *Ginning Briggs*; the banks, however, forming the bar, are not so closely connected but that vessels may enter with safety under the direction of a pilot.

This large county is possessed in property by a very few individuals, who have enormous estates. The whole county is valued in the cess books at only L. 26,193 : 9 : 7 Scots. Of this valuation the estate of Sutherland amounts to - - - - - L.16,024 6 1

Estate of Reay - - -	3,556	0	0
Skibo, Pulrossie, and Newton, belonging to George Dempster of Dunnichen, Esq. and his brother -	1,904	11	2
	L.21,484	17	3

The remainder of the county belongs to fifteen persons,

some of whom are only wadsetters upon the estates of Sutherland and Reay. Wadsetters are a sort of mortgagees in possession. Estate of Reay.

Lord Reay's estate forms the north-western district of the county, and consequently of the British island. It is calculated to amount to about thirty miles in length, and from fifteen to twenty in breadth. The whole face of the territory is mountainous and rocky in an astonishing degree. The more inland parts, which constitute Lord Reay's deer forest, are nothing but a vast group of dreadful mountains, with their summits piercing the clouds, and divided only by deep and very narrow valleys, whose declivities are so narrow and steep as to be dangerous to travellers not furnished with guides: yet these wilds afford excellent pasture, in many places, to all sorts of cattle, being clothed to the tops of the highest mountains with clover and daisies, and other rich pasture. In many places numbers of deer are to be seen, very large and fat, especially in the harvest season; for looking after which certain persons, called foresters, are appointed, with salaries, in convenient parts of the country. The bounds of the forest are very extensive, making a considerable, if not the greater part of Lord Reay's estate; but that part of it which is reckoned the best, and abounds most with deer, is that which belongs to the parish of Edderachyllis. The inhabited places are only those next the sea, and some others on the confines of the forest, which happen to be somewhat level, and thereby fitter for rearing cattle, or the culture of corn; and though, towards the coast, the ruggedness of the ground be less, and the mountains seemingly subside, or present a less awful and horrid appearance, yet rocks and marshes, lakes and mountains, though of less magnitude, are all along continually intermixed: so that, excepting pasture for cattle, it seems but Lord Reay's estate.

Estate of Reay.

very indifferently calculated by nature for any other purpose. It is matter of no small difficulty, even on the shore, to find a lot for a house to stand on conveniently without under water, or some other remarkable disadvantage. The instrument chiefly used for tillage is called a *cascroim*, or "crooked foot;" being a crooked piece of wood, the lower end somewhat thick, about two feet and a half in length, pretty straight, and armed at the end with iron, made thin and square to cut the earth. The upper end of this is called the *shaft*, whereas the lower is termed the *head*. The shaft above the crook is pretty straight, being six feet long, and tapering upwards to the end, which is slender. Just below the crook or angle, which is an obtuse one, there must be a hole, wherein a strong peg must be fixed for the workman's right foot, in order to push the instrument into the earth; while, in the mean time, standing upon his left foot, and holding the shaft firm with both hands, when he has in this manner driven the head far enough into the earth, with one bend of his body he raises the clod by the iron-headed part of his instrument, making use of the heel, or hind-part of the head, as a fulcrum, turning it over always towards the left hand; and then proceeds to push for another clod in the same form. To see six or eight Highlanders all at work with this instrument, as is often to be seen, standing all upon one leg, and pushing with the other, would be a pretty curious object to a stranger.

The cascroim.

With all its disadvantages, the cascroim, of all instruments, is the fittest for turning up the ground in the country: for among so many rocks, a plough can do little or nothing; and where no rocks are found, the earth is commonly so marshy that cattle are not able to pass over it without sinking deep. Therefore it is of pretty general use in the Highlands, and is of great antiquity. One man can turn

over more ground with it in a day than four are able to do with a common spade. For a single man to delve as much ground as will require two pecks of bear-seed in a day is nothing uncommon; nay, some have sown four on a day's work. There are many instances of single men in this district, who in good seasons have reared as much corn as, with the help of potatoes, has subsisted families of six or seven persons plentifully, by the caseroim. But for this they have one advantage denied to many others, that there is always plenty of manure; for, besides what the cattle furnish, there is almost every where the greatest profusion of sea-ware, which makes the best manure, especially when cut early in the spring and mixed with earth. Sutherland Estate.

The lordship of Sutherland is unquestionably one of the most extensive and most populous estates belonging to one proprietor in the island of Great Britain. Its extent, it is believed, has never been accurately ascertained; but containing nearly two-thirds of the valued rent of the county, it must at least have one-half of the extent of ground in it, or 1755 square miles (739,200 acres); and consequently it is equal in size to either of the valuable counties of Chester, of Derby, or of Warwick. The following is the account given by Mr Rose of the three great districts into which this estate is divided. Sutherland estate.

The southern district stretches along the east coast of Sutherland, almost without interruption, from Cyder Hall, on the Meikle Ferry, to the boundaries of Caithness; a distance of about thirty measured miles. The arable land of this district is in general a good kindly soil, fit for producing every kind of grain that is raised in any part of Scotland; having at the same time a great advantage in regard to manure, from the quantity of sea-weed that is thrown in upon the coast, likewise an inexhaustible fund

Sutherland Estate.

of limestone and sea-shells, and also every where water carriage, with great abundance of sea-fish, such as cod, haddock, &c.; not forgetting two excellent salmon fishings on the rivers of Brora and Helmsdale. The inhabitants of this part of the estate raise considerable quantities of corn, such as barley, oats, peas, &c. Grain is their staple commodity for paying their rents and maintaining their families; in addition to which, however, they rear a few black cattle for sale, and spin some linen yarn for the manufacturers of Aberdeen and other places.

The middle district of this estate, consisting of the parishes of Kildonan, Rogart, Lairg, and a part of the parish of Clyne, are countries detached from the sea. They have, it is true, a good deal of arable land, but not of the like good quality with that on the coast. Black cattle, small horses, sheep, and goats, are the staple commodities on which the inhabitants depend for the payment of their rents, and for supplying themselves with the necessary articles of accommodation. In this district they scarcely raise corn sufficient to support the inhabitants for more than one-half or two-thirds of the year; nor has industry, in the way of spinning or manufacture, yet reached them to any degree.

The third or northern district comprehends the parish of Far (known also under the name of Strathnaver) and the parish of Assint, countries bordering on the Northern or Western Ocean. The inhabitants of these parishes are exactly in the same situation with those last mentioned, but with this exception, that such of them as are situated within a few miles of the sea-coast derive also some advantages from fishing. The greater part of this district, however, is inland (particularly in the parish of Far), where the rays of industry have never as yet dawned, and which, it is believed, is in much the same state and

situation now that it was two hundred years ago. There are good salmon fishings on the rivers of Naver and Torrisdale in the parish of Far, and also on the rivers Iuver and Kirkaig in Assint. In many places in this district the plough is not used at all. The ground intended for corn is turned over either with the spade or with the foot-plough called by the natives *cascroim*, already described. An extensive part of the Sutherland estate is appropriated to the feeding of mountain deer, of which it is said that there are on the whole estate above one thousand. At Dunrobin Castle, however, which forms a part of the Sutherland estate, great improvements have been carried on. Soil and Climate.

The third great estate in this county is that belonging to the family of Dempster, called Skibo and Pulrossie. These estates contain about 18,000 acres of land, extending from the point of Ardnacalk, on the north bank of the Frith of Dornoch, westward to Port Leak, being an extent of twelve or fourteen miles. The bulk of the estate is hilly, but the hills are of no great height, seeming generally to rise about from 500 to 700 feet above the level of the frith. Skibo and Pulrossie.

Having mentioned these estates in particular, we may remark in general, that the county may be considered as divided into three districts: The eastern upon the German Ocean, the western upon the Atlantic Ocean, and the central or middle district. Concerning the east coast it may be remarked, that though Sutherland is many degrees farther north than East Lothian, there is much less difference between the two, in point of climate, than could be well imagined. In Sutherland the spring is perhaps about a fortnight or three weeks later, and the winter commences a fortnight or three weeks sooner; but the summers are equally warm, if not warmer, and the winter can hardly be called Soil and climate.

Soil and Climate.

colder. The air is sometimes keen and penetrating, though on the whole certainly healthful and salubrious.

Bear or big and peas are the most profitable crops, at least under the present system of farming. There seems to be something peculiarly favourable in the soil and climate to bear and peas. Oats thrive well in some particular spots; but in general they are neither sure nor profitable. For wheat there is no demand on the spot, nor mills to manufacture it. Bear or big is found preferable to barley. The latter is longer of ripening, more liable to shake, produces straw of a worse quality for feeding cattle, and is not so productive of grain. The peas sown here are of different kinds. Those that go under the name of the Sutherland or country peas have been sown from time immemorial, and the common farmers are much attached to them. They are a small dwarfish kind, but produce a large quantity of very sweet meal. They ripen pretty early, but have little straw. There have been introduced of late various kinds of peas; namely, the large red, the grey, and the blue-marbled. Beans are raised here to great advantage, and the natives find them, ground into meal, a wholesome and substantial food. There is only one kind used here, which is the small horse-bean.

The manure principally used by the generality of the tenants is the dung of cattle and litter, mixed with layers of earth from moorish or mossy ground, which is very often of a very poor quality, and sometimes impregnated with mineral particles, and consequently injurious to vegetation; yet the common farmers will carry this beggarly, and sometimes noxious stuff, for miles, on the backs of their little horses. At Dunrobin, and by some of the principal farmers, in addition to animal dung and various composts, fern, sea-weed, peat-ashes, and lime are used. Sea-ware sometimes abounds on the coast, and the farm-

ers are very diligent in collecting it when driven on the shore. They apply it commonly to bear, and it seldom fails to bring a good crop. The gardens at Dunrobin and Skibo show what might be effected even in this northern latitude by labour and attention. Apples, pears, and cherries thrive perfectly well; and at Skibo the peach and the apricot. In 1794, also, from the peculiar fineness of the season, walnuts ripened in the garden at Skibo, which, it is believed, is extremely unusual north of Durham. There are considerable plantations at Skibo, Cyder Hall, and Dunrobin; but, on the whole, this district is extremely bare and naked, though the practicability of having large plantations is indisputably proved by their success where they have been tried. Soil and Climate.

The middle district of Sutherland contains nothing different from other parts of the northern Highlands of Scotland. The soil of the long valleys between the mountains is a sharp loam, capable of every improvement, were it cleared of rocks or great lumps of stone; which, however, could not be removed without vast labour and expence. With the exception of those farms that have been converted into sheep-walks, the arable land is occupied in small portions of from one to four acres. The state of the roads is very miserable, very little attention being paid to them.

The western coast of Sutherland is wild, rocky, and mountainous; and a considerable part of it is a monstrous assemblage of rugged mountains, apparently piled upon each other, and seemingly torn and shattered by some great convulsion of nature. There are still a considerable number of goats in this part of the country. The lofty mountains attract the clouds from the Atlantic, and occasion such frequent and heavy rains and mists on the hills as to produce a very wet climate.

Minerals. Sutherland has, in a variety of quarters, abundance of freestone, limestone, and slate. The limestone, in many places, assumes the form of marl; particularly in Assintal, Ledbeg, Ry-autra-id, and Advare, near the coast. In Iron, &c. the same district it appears that iron mines were anciently wrought, but at what period of history does not appear. Among the mountains on the west coast the traces of ancient mines and iron works are still to be found. The whole country was, in early times, covered by one vast forest, so that there could be no difficulty in obtaining abundance of charcoal, which is the most valuable species of fuel for this important manufacture. There was, some years ago, found, by one John Sinclair, a large piece of forged or malleable iron, produced, without doubt, by the early artists who in ancient times possessed that quarter of the island. It was of a roundish form, from seventeen to twenty pounds weight. It was of good quality, and a neighbouring blacksmith wrought it into facings or edgings for the rude implements of husbandry which are used in this part of the country.

Rock crystals and pebbles are found in many parts; and beautiful garnets are found on the coast in the parish of Tongue. There are several veins of coal; but the quality is far from good, and the veins are too small to be of consequence. Although the search after metals in this county has been very limited, yet considerable riches of that kind have been discovered. We are assured that native gold has been found in the *debris* near the foot of the mountains. There are many veins of lead-ore, very rich in silver, but as yet none have been wrought. Ironstone is very abundant; and in Strathnaver, Assint, and Ederachylis, are distinct marks, as already noticed, of its having formerly been wrought and smelted with wood. A rich vein of black oxide of manganese has been lately discovered near the

Frith of Dornoch. The mineralogy of this county and of Ross-shire deserves more attention; and there is no doubt that the discoveries would amply repay the trouble. Dornoch.

There is only one royal borough in the county of Sutherland, that of Dornoch. It is situated on the north coast of the Frith of Dornoch, already mentioned, nearly opposite to the borough of Tain, which lies on the south side of the same frith. The town is small, and going fast to decay, although it is the county town, and the residence of a sheriff-court. It was erected a royal borough by a charter from King Charles the First, dated 1628; and its government is vested in a provost, four bailies, and ten counsellors, four of whom are annually changed. It is one of the northern district of boroughs which unite in sending a member to parliament. This place, however, contains some vestiges of antiquity, which demonstrate that it was once of more importance than at present. Dornoch was formerly the seat of the bishop of Caithness, and a part of the ancient cathedral still remains. The present parish church is formed out of three of the wings or aisles of the ancient cathedral. The fourth has been long in ruins; and the old custom prevails of burying all persons of any distinction connected with the parish within the church. It has, however, been floored with wood, at the height of seven feet above the ground; but still its vast extent and stupendous height render it unfit to be used as a presbyterian church. It is not precisely known when the see of Caithness, including Sutherland, was erected; but Andrew Bishop of Caithness is witness to a donation by David the First to the monastery of Dunfermline. He was bishop here in 1150. In 1222 Gilbert Murray was bishop here. The archbishop of York had claimed a jurisdiction over the Scottish church, and the claim was patronised by the king of England, and favoured by the Dornoch. Cathedral. Murray, an eminent bishop.

Dornoch. Pope's legate, who held a convention on the subject at Northampton, in presence of the kings of England and Scotland, in the year 1176. The legate addressed a speech to the convention, in which he strongly supported the claims of the archbishop of York. It was followed by a long silence, the Scottish bishops being intimidated by the authority of the legate, and perhaps also by the authority and the power of the king of England. At length Gilbert Murray, then a young man, one of the inferior clergy, being a canon of the church of Moray, who had attended his bishop to England, ventured to rise, and, with a vehement and intrepid eloquence, defended the independence of the Scottish church. His abilities obtained the applause of the whole assembly, and his courage revived the spirit of his associates; so that the legate, being apprehensive that he spoke the general sentiment of his country, and that the authority of the Romish see in Scotland might be brought into danger by an attempt to subject it to subordinate authority, prudently broke up the convention. Gilbert Murray, on his return home, was universally caressed, and afterwards promoted to the see of Caithness. He built the cathedral of Dornoch, died at Scrabster in Caithness, where the bishops had also a residence, in 1245, and was afterwards canonized. A statue of him is still shewn in the church here, under the name of St Gilbert, but it is not entire.

The Bishop's Castle. Here stand also the ruins of the bishop's castle, which appears to have been a stately and sumptuous edifice. About the year 1567, George Earl of Caithness, who claimed wardship of Alexander Earl of Sutherland, then a minor, had got the person of the latter into his possession; a tribe of Murrays, inhabiting this part of the country, who were firmly attached to the noble family of Sutherland, and beheld the conduct of Caithness with a jealous eye, contrived to get the minor conveyed from

Caithness, and put under the protection of the Earl of Huntly. Caithness, in revenge, invaded this country by his son John, who invested the town and castle of Dornoch, of which the Murrays had possessed themselves. Several skirmishes took place with various success. The Murrays, no longer able to maintain the ground they had occupied, retired to the castle. Upon this the Master of Caithness burnt the town and cathedral; but still the besieged defended themselves in the castle for a month longer. At length, however, they were obliged to capitulate, having undertaken to depart out of Sutherland within two months, and delivered three hostages into the hands of the conquerors. The Murrays fulfilled their engagement; but, from the barbarous temper of the age, the hostages were nevertheless murdered. Antiquities.

Over the whole of this country, in different places, are to be found vestiges of those ancient buildings, denominated *Picts houses*, which we have already described, and which on the west coast are called *Duns*. In various parts also are to be seen vestiges of fortifications of different sorts. Some of them are old towers, and others consist of larger works, which seem to have been intended as places of safety for considerable bodies of men or cattle. On the east coast, on the south side of Loch Brora, there is a hill, called Craig Bar, fortified with a ditch of circumvallation. It is a steep and rocky precipice, every way inaccessible but by a narrow neck of land between it and a neighbouring hill. It contains about eight acres of land, and could easily be defended against any number of assailants. In many quarters cairns are found, which are considered as monuments erected to chiefs who fell in battle; and numberless spots are pointed out in which the rival clans formerly engaged in sanguinary contests with each other. In the parish of Assint, in the Island of Oldney, is a considerable cairn, in which Antiquities.

Antiquities. is a stone hollowed out, and having a cover of stone. The old people of the neighbourhood relate that the hollowed stone formerly contained a round stone, of the size and form of a large egg, for which, and also for an adjacent burying ground, great veneration was entertained. The round stone, on account of its variegated, minute, and splendid colours, was always shewn to strangers. It was privately carried off by a sea-faring man, to whom, in the usual manner, it had been exhibited as a curiosity. It is suspected to have been an object of Scandinavian idolatry.

Dun Dornadilla. In the parish of Durness, in which is Cape Wrath, are the remains of the tower called Dun Dornadilla, which has been much noticed by travellers. That portion of the wall of this ancient tower which is still standing is eighteen feet at the highest part. The area appears to have been surrounded with two concentric walls. A large triangular stone covers the front-door as a lintel. The opposite side has been reduced to rubbish. A celebrated Gaelic bard, Robert Doun, belonged to this parish. His songs possess considerable reputation among the Highlanders.

In the parish of Tongue, at Milness, are the remains of an ancient building; but so ruinous, and so covered with earth, that its original form cannot be distinctly traced. It is called *Dun Bhuidh*, "the yellow heap," and supposed to be erected by Dornadilla King of the Scots. The skeletons of two men were found buried near it some years ago. One of them measured in length about seven feet. Upon being exposed for some time to the air, they mouldered into dust. About the distance of half a mile from Milness, there are several heaps of stones and ruins of small circular buildings, scattered at various distances, on a rising ground near the sea. The circular buildings

are said to have been folds erected to guard the younger cattle from the wolves with which it is supposed the country was once infested. No account is given of these heaps; though, from the size and situation of them, it should seem a battle had been fought upon the spot. On the east side of the bay lies Tongue, one of the seats of Lord Reay, a beautiful spot, laid out into gardens, surrounded with beautiful trees, which, in some points of view, seem, on the one side, to wave their tops among the cliffs of Ben Loaghal; and, on the other, to lose themselves in the ruins of Caistal-a-Bharruich; a structure so ancient that there is no consistent tradition concerning it. Perhaps it was possessed by John Mackay Abarach, the greatest name for heroism in this part of the Highlands; and what renders this conjecture the more plausible, is, that there is a cave in the rock upon which the castle was built, called *Leabuidh Ecin Abaruich*, i. e. "John of Abarach's bed," whither he is said to have retired in time of danger. A family of the Mackays are descended from him, and are reported to have still in their possession his banner, with this motto wrought in golden letters, *Biodh treun, Biodh treun*, i. e. "Be valiant."

Antiquities.

Lord Reay's seat.

Last of all, Dunrobin Castle, on the east coast, the seat of the ancient Earls of Sutherland, may be mentioned. It is in excellent repair; and great agricultural exertions have been successfully made around it. It was founded about the year 1100 by Robert or Robin, second Earl of Sutherland. It is situated near the sea, and, as the word *dun* imports, on a round hill. The few paintings here are an Earl of Murray, an old man, on wood, his son and two daughters, by Co. G. 1628; a fine full length of Charles the First; Angus Williamson, a hero of the clan Chattan, who rescued the Sutherlands in the time of distress; a very singular picture of the Duke of Alva, in council

Dunrobin Castle.

Highlands. with a cardinal by his side, who puts a pair of bellows, blown by the Devil, into his ear; the Duke has a chain in one hand fixed to the necks of the kneeling Fleemings, in the other he shews them a paper of recantation for them to sign; behind them are the reformed clergy. The cardinal is the noted Anthony Pirrenot, Cardinal de Grandville, secretary to Margaret of Austria, Duchess Dowager of Savoy, governess of the Netherlands, and who was held to be the author, advancer, and nourisher of the troubles of those countries; and who, on his recal into Spain, was supposed to be the great promoter of the cruelties exercised afterwards by the Duke of Alva, the successor of his mistress.

As Sutherland is the first county which is altogether, or principally Highland, to which we have come, it will here be proper to take some notice of the past history and future prospects of that part of the British islands called the Highlands of Scotland.

General account of the Highlands. It is a singular circumstance attending the situation of Scotland, that for ages it has been inhabited by two distinct races of men; that is to say, by mountaineers, commonly called Highlanders, employed chiefly in pasturage, but partly also in agriculture; and by Lowlanders, or inhabitants of the more level tracts on the south and east, in which agriculture has been more generally practised. The inhabitants of the different districts of the Highlands and Lowlands were for ages distinguished by a different garb, and to this day they are wonderfully distinct. The boundary which divides them is not correctly marked by physical limits, consisting of northern or southern latitude, or of rivers and friths, but is completely distinguished by the most important of all circumstances in social life, the difference of language. A Highlander and a Lowlander, born in neighbouring cottages, hear each other talking anguage which they do

not understand. Of late years, indeed, in consequence of the great changes which have been introduced, and of the industrious diffusion of a knowledge of the English tongue throughout the Highlands, a Lowland Scotchman or an Englishman finds his language understood by abundance of persons in the remotest corners of the island; but the case was formerly very different; and to this day a native of Edinburgh, or even of Perthshire, born at the foot of the Grampians, understands as little of the Erse language as he does of the Hindoo, the Shanscrit, or the Persian tongues; neither does it appear from history or tradition, that his ancestors were ever better acquainted with that language. Highlands.

The ancient history of Scotland is involved in very great obscurity. The Roman writers give little light upon the subject, and our own early historians have suffered themselves to be misled by monkish fables. The Roman armies under Agricola advanced along the southern foot of the Grampians, through Strathmore; and they appear to have pressed onwards along the east coast, thro' the low territory of Aberdeenshire, Banff, Moray, Nairn, and Inverness, as far as Ross-shire; but they were unable to make any permanent establishment beyond the isthmus between Forth and Clyde; and even the territory between that and the English border, where they had their southern wall, does not seem to have remained long undisputed. The ancient inhabitants of Scotland are usually spoken of under three appellations: Scots, Caledonians, and Picts. Scot or Scuit signifies, in the Gaelic or Erse language, a wanderer, in the bad sense of the word, being synonymous with vagabond or wandering plunderer. It was probably originally a term of contempt used by their enemies; but it sometimes happens that a people take a pride in assuming, as a name of ho- Scots, Caledonians, and Picts. 1. Scots.

Highlands. nour or distinction, what their enemies consider as a source of reproach; and thus a wandering and unusually warlike tribe, gaining an ascendancy over their neighbours, may have given name to the whole nation. As the Highlanders were always accustomed to desert the valleys in the summer months, to attend their cattle to the mountains, and to live in temporary huts, called *shealings*, the appellation of wanderers may have been a name given to the whole of them, of which they might have become proud, from their attachment to a pastoral, a hunting, and a warlike life. Our old historians tell a strange story about the Scots having come originally from Troy or from Egypt, of their having attempted to settle in the west of Spain or Portugal; that after many adventures and wars there they again embarked, and settled in Ireland, from which they once more removed into Argyleshire and the mountains of Scotland; and that, last of all, they conquered the Picts who inhabited the level parts of Scotland on the south and east, and their chief became sole monarch of the territory now denominated Scotland.

Passing over as evidently fabulous the first part of this story, it may be remarked that there is no reason for believing that any part of the inhabitants of Scotland originally came from Ireland. The native Highlanders and the native Irish do no doubt speak the same language, which is also spoken by the Welch; but this is obviously because they are all descendants of the ancient Gael, Gauls, or Celts, who inhabited Europe before the Roman conquests, and retreated to remote quarters or mountains to preserve their independence against these conquerors. Among the Western Highlanders no tradition exists that their ancestors came from Ireland. They call themselves Albinich, or inhabitants of Albion. Upon the whole, the name of Scots is probably nothing more than

a term of reproach given by their Lowland enemies to the whole, or at least to a leading tribe of Highlanders, who anciently, in the character of the wandering and independent barbarians of the mountains, in their native fastnesses, for so many ages were enabled, especially by the aid of their poverty, to set all invasion at defiance. It is to be remarked, however, that, according to our ancient historians, the chief king of the Scots had his residence at Campbelton and Dunstaffnage in Argyleshire, till the reign of Kenneth the Second, about A. D. 850, when the Scots conquered the Picts; after which the kings of the Scots took up their residence in the more fertile territory to the south of the Grampians, and deserted their former Highland dwelling. Highlands.

Caledonian is perhaps also, in its origin, only another name for Highlander. Etymology is at all times a frail basis on which to rest historical truth; at the same time the word Caledonian resembles so nearly the term Gael-dun, or Gauls of the mountains, by which the Highlanders to this day distinguish themselves, that we are tempted to suppose that the appellation of Caledonian belongs in its origin to the Gael-dun, or Scottish mountaineers. It must be confessed, however, that, according to this mode of interpretation, the Welch have as good a right to be called Caledonians as the Scots, because they also may be justly denominated Gael-dun; that is to say, Gael, Celts, or Gauls of the mountains. a. Caledonians.

The chief difficulty in the ancient history of Scotland relates to the ancient people whom we have so frequently mentioned, and who were denominated by the Romans, and by our own historians, the *Picts*, or, as the name is still vulgarly pronounced, the *Pechts*. They are admitted to have been skilled in the art of agriculture; to have possessed, as formerly stated, the south of Scotland as far a. Picts.

Highlands. westward as the Clyde. After the retreat of the Romans, and even during the dominion of that people, they enjoyed the whole low country between the Forth and the Grampians, together with the lower part of Aberdeenshire and the whole borders of the Moray Frith, together with Caithness, Orkney, and Shetland. Our old historians, as already noticed, represent the Scots, that is, the Highlanders, as having ultimately conquered the Picts in the ninth century; and that the Scottish king, Kenneth the Second, thereby became sole monarch of the whole country. The question is, Who were these Picts? Were they originally a different people from the *Gael-dun* or Highlanders? Two suppositions may readily occur upon the subject. The one is, that the Picts were nothing more than the Gael, or ancient inhabitants of the country, who inhabited the arable and more fertile parts of Scotland, and were thereby led to engage in agriculture; and that they differed in no respect from the Gael-dun or Highlanders, excepting in the place of their residence, which naturally induced them to cultivate the soil; while the sterility of the Highlands, and general wetness of climate, compelled their inhabitants to subsist chiefly by hunting, by pasturage, or fishing. As the whole country of Scotland was divided into petty sovereignties, and the more fertile territory of the low countries held out to the Highlanders a temptation to plunder, there would naturally be frequent wars between these two classes of people, which might perhaps terminate in the sovereignty being acquired over both by the principal Highland chief, who thereafter claimed the sovereignty of all Scotland. It may also be supposed that the term *Picts*, or *Picti Britanni*, used by the Roman writers, was only a name by which they distinguished the independent barbarians of the country, who refused to conform to their own customs, and persevered in the an-

cient practice, so common among barbarous nations, of rubbing upon the skin of their bodies mixtures of coloured and unctuous substances, partly for the purpose of rendering themselves terrible in war, partly as an ornament which they think beautiful, and partly to protect themselves against the severity of the climate. Upon this supposition, the term *Picts* would include the whole inhabitants of Scotland beyond the limits of the Roman provinces, whether inhabiting the plains, and engaged in agriculture, or inhabiting the mountains, and occupied chiefly in pasturage, hunting, and fishing. Highlands.

On the other hand, however, it has been supposed that the Highlanders were actually originally a different race from the Picts, and from the inhabitants of the low country of the south and east of Scotland. It has been supposed that the latter were of a Gothic or Scandinavian origin, who from the shores of the Baltic had come in quest of habitations antecedent to the Christian era, and occupied the most valuable part of Scotland; that is to say, the Orkney and Shetland Isles, Caithness, the southern coasts of the Moray Frith, the coast of Aberdeenshire, with Kincardine, Angus, Perthshire to the south of the Grampians, Fife, and the Lothians westward to the Clyde. It has further been supposed, that the Gael or ancient Celts were of a more southern origin, probably from the coasts of Gaul. This supposition, that the Gael or Celts were originally a different race from the Picts, has been maintained by Mr Pinkerton with much learning and ingenuity, and a great collection of authorities from ancient writers.

Without entering into a dispute which can now be of little value or importance, we shall satisfy ourselves with taking notice of the few peculiarities which are known to have discriminated the inhabitants of the Highlands from those of the low country in all ages, leaving it to the Highland and Lowland customs compared.

Highlands. unprejudiced reader to judge for himself, how far there is any reason for considering this ancient race of mountaineers as originally a different people from their neighbours of the Lowlands.

Religion. It appears that, at all times, the religion of every part of Scotland has been nearly the same. There are as many monuments of the Druidical worship to be found in the Highlands as in the territories of the ancient Picts. Indeed they are more numerous in the Highlands, because fewer of those exertions have been made in building, inclosing, or agriculture, which have a tendency to destroy or remove the vestiges of antiquity. The conversion to Christianity of the inhabitants of all parts of the country appears also to have taken place nearly about the same period.

Language. On the other hand, we have already mentioned the difference of language which has at all known periods of history taken place between the Highlanders and their neighbours in the east, or in the south-east of Scotland. The language of the Highlanders was merely oral. They had no books or written record. The songs of their bards were only handed down by tradition, in consequence of being committed to memory by successive generations. Their more civilized neighbours, who were more steadily engaged in agriculture, at an early period employed themselves in literature, and had writings in their own or in a foreign tongue. The oldest dialect of the Lowland Scots, of which any trace exists, resembles the English language of our own times in as great a degree as the dialects of equal antiquity that were used in the south of England; and both of them are totally unlike the Erse or Gaelic of the Highlanders.

Clothing. It appears that although the inhabitants of Scotland were accustomed to paint those parts of their bodies which they

left uncovered, yet that, at least as early as the fifth or sixth century, they were accustomed to use clothing. The garb of the Highlanders, however, has always been different from that of the inhabitants of the low country. It is unnecessary to describe the Highland dress, as the most improved state of it has been preserved in a part of of the British army. Highlands.

It is farther to be remarked, as a singular peculiarity, that the Highlanders appear to have abhorred at all times the use of pork as food; and to this day the common people of the Highlands have a strong aversion to it, and never willingly use it. On the contrary, as we have already remarked, their neighbours in Caithness have abundance of swine; and on the coast of the Moray Frith they have been always reared, and used as food, by that class of people who use the English language according to the Scottish dialect. Highlanders dislike pork.

In other respects, it does not appear that any distinction ever existed between the inhabitants of the Highlands and of the Lowlands of Scotland, farther than that which arose from physical causes, or the difference of the territory which they inhabited. The Highlander, for some centuries at least, has cultivated grain where he could do so with success; although, from the mountainous nature of his territory, like the inhabitants of the Cheviot and of the Tweeddale hills, he was under the necessity of trusting chiefly to the produce of his flocks or herds for subsistence. As a great part of the Highlands also lie along the western coast, the rains proceeding from the Atlantic render pasturage to this day the most favourable and advantageous mode of occupying the small spots of arable territory that are to be found in the recesses of the mountains. With regard to the character of the people, and the state of society that prevailed among them, it appears to have been, Similarity in other respects.

Highlands. for these five or six centuries, precisely similar to that which prevailed in the rest of the island, and over all Europe, from the tenth to the fourteenth century. The Highlands of Scotland, however, from their remote situation, were longer left under a state of chieftainship or feudal anarchy than other parts of Europe; and hence the state of society which prevailed in them till the year 1746 is considered as a subject of curiosity. It is so, however, for no other reason but because the rest of the British island, and the south of Europe, had for two or three centuries preceding come to be in a civilized and totally different state.

Feudal government. Long after the art of government had been so far improved, that tranquillity was maintained and justice administered over all England and the low country of Scotland, the Highlands continued to afford a lively representation of the state of England before the Norman conquest, and of all Europe at the date of the crusades. As to this day the effects remain of that state of society, out of which the Highlands have so recently emerged; or rather, as they are at present only in a state of transition or passage into that situation in which the rest of the island has so long been placed, it becomes a subject of rational curiosity to attend correctly to the past and present state of that portion of territory. Speedily all traces will be lost in this island of the condition in which our forefathers so long lived, and of the manner in which they passed from their ancient state of life. Seeing only the effects of the change, or the riches which result from civilization, posterity might rashly suppose that the period of amelioration was altogether fortunate, or attended with no alloy of bitterness or of evil.

Weakness of the crown. Under the feudal government the authority of the crown and of the law was extremely weak; every great proprietor of lands possessed complete jurisdiction within his own ter-

tstory, and acknowledged little more as due to the king, or head of the nation, than mere homage or submission in the field of battle, on those few occasions when short and desultory national wars were undertaken, or when a temporary union became necessary to defend the country against invasion. The sovereign or prince was little more than a great baron, who had his own estate and vassals; at the head of whom, with the aid of the pretensions resulting from his title, if he was a man of talents, he might make a considerable figure; but being destitute of any great revenue, he could maintain no standing force, nor give effect to the execution of the law. This was particularly the case in Scotland, where the towns were anciently very trifling, and the king could not unite with a wealthy and active body of common people in repressing the great barons. Hence every great proprietor of lands was in truth, from the turbulent and barbarous character of the people, a petty sovereign within his own domain. The nation was divided into a multitude of little monarchies, of greater or less extent, and these were subject to all the revolutions incident to great states, but with a degree of frequency proportioned to their number, their vicinity, and the powerful effects which the talents of individuals might be expected frequently to produce. While matters were in this disorderly or lawless condition, every proprietor of lands found it absolutely necessary to secure to himself a numerous body of faithful vassals, in the same manner that a great prince endeavours, in our times, to possess a strong standing army. He also endeavoured to secure himself by alliances with neighbouring proprietors, and by fortifying the place of his residence. But the most important object necessarily was to secure a numerous body of retainers, because ambitious and restless neighbours were continually attempting to extend their

Highlands.

Power of the nobles.

Importance of the occupiers of the soil.

Highlands. estates, that is, their territories, by conquest; which, if once made, could only be wrested from them by force of arms. To this consideration, of increasing the number and attachment of their dependants, every extensive proprietor sacrificed all other considerations. He was under the necessity of doing so, if he wished to protect his house from pillage, and his family from slaughter, or to retain possession of his property. He therefore allowed his tenants to possess their farms at low rents, which were paid in kind; that is to say, in cattle, grain, or other articles. When a tenant had a numerous family (as in those times in which commerce and standing armies and arts were unknown, they could only be provided for by obtaining a possession of land), they were usually allowed to divide among them their father's farm, for which they paid only the old and moderate rent. The arrangement was acceptable to all parties: to the proprietor of the lands, that he might not lose the military services of a set of young men born upon his estate, and attached to him and his family; and to the vassals, as they thus obtained a provision for their future subsistence without the necessity of emigrating from their native soil. The proprietor or chief attempted to divide his lands in such a way as to accommodate all his followers. At the same time, by the power which he possessed of expelling a refractory individual, his authority over them was complete. The result was, that the country contained, in every quarter, at least as many inhabitants as it could well maintain; and every proprietor of lands had under his command a numerous body of vassals.

Feudal manners. These arrangements, which had only war or defence for their object, necessarily gave rise to a state of manners and character which was altogether of a military cast. Every great proprietor endeavoured to unite himself as closely as possible to his people; and they, in return, making to

him only trifling payments, and accustomed to take a share in every effort of danger made by him for the defence or extension of his territory, regarded him as a chief, and not as a landlord. The whole vassals of the same chief assumed the same name, and his territory they considered as their country: and thus the name which they bore formed a military watchword, or token of mutual confidence, which served to rally them in case of a temporary misfortune, or of a conquest of their territory by a neighbouring baron and his vassals. This assumption of the same name also served to convey the idea, that the members of a tribe, clan, or inhabitants of a district, were all the kindred of each other, and of their chief, and tended to bind the ties of affection more closely among them. Highlands.

In such a state of society wars were continually occurring. If the chief was brave, and fond of military adventures, the natural love of action and of war, which in all ages has characterised the European nations, enabled him easily to engage his clan in the most dangerous enterprises. If a neighbouring chief was of a pacific spirit, it was a sufficient reason for invading and plundering his territory, and perhaps for expelling him from it, and giving the best portions of it to the youth of the conquering clan. If a neighbouring chief was enterprising, had overawed his neighbours, was increasing his territory, his riches, and the number of his vassals, it was a sufficient reason of forming an alliance against him, and for attempting to reduce his power and diminish his territory. Even the too great increase of population must itself have often given rise to war. When a scarcity occurred in consequence of this cause or of bad seasons, the effects of it necessarily fell upon the least warlike or least powerful clans. The boldest and most enterprising chiefs found, in driving off the cattle of their neighbours, a sufficient resource for them-

Highlands. selves and their dependants. Those who fought and fell, and those who were victorious, were equally provided for. In this way the country was continually agitated by intestine wars; and feuds were kept up for ages as a pretext for future quarrels. At the same time, it must not be supposed that mankind, amidst this state of things, suffered uncommon misery. On the contrary, an intrepid and fearless state of mind was produced, prompt to attack and to defend; and all the animated and generous passions were preserved in force. Accustomed, as we are, to the mercenary relation of landlord and tenant, we cannot hear, without wonder, of the ardent attachment with which the ancient chieftains of the north and of the south were regarded by their vassals. Douglas, Hume, Fleeming, M'Donald, Graham, and a multitude of others, could call forth, in an instant, in arms, the whole population of their respective territories, and were followed with an ardent enthusiasm which deserted them in no misfortune.

But we must not suppose, on this account, that these chiefs had it in their power to act as despots or with barbarity towards their own people. On the contrary, the connection was maintained by mutual benefits and kind offices. The people paid only a trifling rent or tribute to their chief. On his part, the most condescending manners were employed, his house was the general resort of his clan, and his revenue was spent in entertaining them. Thus hospitality and polite manners were diffused amongst these barbarians in every clan; the highest and the lowest were the companions in arms, and even the kindred of each other, who depended for their safety upon their mutual fidelity and courage. In the case of very great families, or when the domains of a chief became very extensive, it was usual for the head of the clan occasionally to grant large territories to the younger branches of his family in return for a tri-

ding quit-rent. These persons were called chieftains, to whom the lower classes looked up as their immediate leader. These chieftains were, in later times, called tacksmen; but at all periods they were considered nearly in the same light as proprietors, and acted on the same principles. They were the officers who, under the chief, commanded in the military expeditions of the clans. This was their employment; and neither their own dispositions, nor the situation of the country, inclined them to engage in the drudgery of agriculture any farther than to supply the necessaries of life for their own families. A part of their land was usually sufficient for this purpose, and the remainder was let off in small portions to cottagers, who differed but little from the small occupiers who held their lands immediately from the chief; excepting that, in lieu of rent, they were bound to a certain amount of labour for the advantage of their immediate superior. The more of these people any gentleman could collect around his habitation, with the greater facility could he carry on the work of his own farm; the greater, too, was his personal safety. Besides this, the tacksmen, holding their lands from the chief at a mere quit-rent, were naturally solicitous to merit his favour by the number of their immediate dependants whom they could bring to join his standard; and they had, in fact, no other means of employing to advantage the superfluity of their land than by joining in the general system of the country, and multiplying the ultimate occupiers of the land. Highlands.

The effect of all this was, that throughout the whole kingdom the territory was divided into separate little monarchies, in which the chief, and his nobles, the inferior chieftains, were regarded with the most ardent loyalty by their people, who were the companions of their enterprises and of their pleasures. The desire of accumulating

Highlands. was checked by the insecurity of property. Military prowess and warlike achievements engrossed the thoughts of all men, and formed the subject of their pride. What was gained by pillage and rapine was spent with profusion. It was accounted disgraceful to refuse protection and hospitality to a stranger who was unprotected; and from the chieftains, in particular, the most unbounded generosity was expected.

This state of things continued, in a less or greater degree, over all Scotland, till about the period at which the King of Scots, James the Sixth, succeeded to the crown of England.

Relative importance of the Highlands and Lowlands.

With regard to the relative importance of the Highlands and Lowlands, it may be remarked, that although it would seem that, in very early times, the Scots or Highlanders, as already mentioned, had conquered the Picts or inhabitants of the low country, to which the King of Scots, as the most valuable part of his dominions, transferred his residence; yet, from the period of the conquest of the Picts, the Highlands always acted a secondary part in all national revolutions. Mountainous countries are strong when they stand on the defensive, but feeble in attack. A few mountaineers may at times come down to pillage the neighbouring valleys; but the physical distribution of a mountainous territory, by dividing the people into scattered tribes, prevents their uniting in any common enterprise. Accordingly, the Highlands of Scotland were at all times divided into independent clanships, whose hereditary hostility prevented their union in a common cause; while the natural boundaries of rugged mountains, and arms of the sea, prevented any clan from uniting the rest under its banners by means of conquest. In the maritime territory of Kintyre, Argyleshire, and the Western Isles, the M'Donalds appear, indeed, in the twelfth and beginning of the thirteenth centuries, to have

risen to such power as to threaten once more a conquest of Scotland from the Highlands, particularly by the aid of the Danes; but the severe defeats which they experienced near Renfrew and at Largs, put an end to all apprehensions from that quarter. Thereafter, from the period of the commencement of the contest between England and Scotland about the succession to the Scottish crown, till the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England at the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Highlands sunk into a state of comparative inferiority in a military point of view. As the English and Scots were almost continually at war, while, at the same time, no standing force existed in either kingdom, but the whole youth capable of military service were trained to arms, the Lowlanders, especially in the vicinity of the English border, possessed a great military superiority over their northern countrymen. The southern Scots, being accustomed to contend with the powerful armies which the English monarchs at times brought to the field, were armed and arranged like the warriors against whom they fought; and their constant practice of making war upon a great scale gave them a superiority of skill. During these ages, therefore, of hostility, between the Scots and the English, the Highlanders could only be troublesome neighbours to the inhabitants of Strathmore and the valleys at the foot of the Grampians, but were in no respect dangerous to the Scottish government. Their wars were altogether of an intestine nature, in which rival clans fought, plundered, and massacred each other, with various success; but none of them were any match in arms for the vassals of Douglas, Fleeming, Hume, Scott, and other chiefs who resided on the border: and accordingly, when the kings of Scotland were not engaged in war with England, or with the rebellious barons in the south, they marched armies of borderers to the utmost extremity of the Highlands to quell insurrections of their chiefs. Such

Highlands.

The southern Scots most warlike.

Highlands. efforts, however, resembled the inroads of an enemy, and produced no lasting effect in favour of the power of the Scottish king, or of the supremacy of law or order.

Change of character. After the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England, the inhabitants of the north of England and south of Scotland, by mutual consent, laid down their arms. The Scottish monarchs had been formerly unable to subdue their turbulent nobles of the south; but being now raised to the English throne, this became an easy task, because the whole force of the monarchies of Scotland and England being united in the same head, it was no longer possible to resist the power of a prince so strongly supported. The growing civilization of mankind also tended to accomplish the same object. From that time, therefore, the inhabitants of the south of Scotland abandoned their military habits. The barons, or proprietors of land, finding themselves protected by law, and that they derived no importance or benefit from their numerous retainers, speedily began to drop that spirit of clanship which had formerly united every great proprietor to his tenants or vassals. Their castles afforded them no independence, or means of setting at defiance the head of the state, more especially after the invention and general use of gunpowder; and in the low country their territories were of such easy access, that they could not hope with impunity to resist the execution of the law. They began therefore to demand the highest rent which could be obtained for their lands, because riches now afforded the only distinction to which they could attain. It was found that the land was occupied by more persons than was necessary for its cultivation. By throwing several farms into one, the new tenant was enabled to pay a much higher rent than could be done by the ancient possessors, because he could pay to the landlord a great proportion of

the produce, that had formerly gone towards the support of the former unnecessary occupiers. In this way the ancient tenants of the soil were gradually expelled from most estates; the old towns and villages augmented, or new ones were built; and the population of the open country was diminished. It was even found that a great part of the mountainous district near the border could be most profitably employed in rearing sheep; and thus a large portion of that territory, which was formerly the great nursery or the school of the most celebrated Scottish warriors, came to be inhabited by a few shepherds and their dogs. The remaining arable tracts on the eastern border were thrown into large masses, to be occupied by wealthy, skilful, and pacific farmers. The result was, that the military art was totally neglected in the south of Scotland. After the two kingdoms became united, and when the civil war broke out in the reign of Charles the First, there were but few arms to be found in the country, and nobody could use them without learning a new trade, as recruits for the army do at present. Meanwhile the Highlanders continued to be the same sort of people that they had been in former times. Clanship flourished, depredation and petty war never ceased; and then only it was that the Highlanders became superior to the Lowlanders in arms. Highlands.

The alteration of circumstances which produced so great a change does not seem to have been much attended to, nor its effects foreseen, but by the Marquis of Montrose, during the civil wars, who having procured the king's commission to command in Scotland (which he had long and earnestly solicited), set out from Carlisle in the most desperate state of the royal cause, with two gentlemen (he himself disguised like a servant), and made his way through the low country of Scotland to the Highlands, where he erected the king's standard, and with a handful of men began Highlanders become formidable.

Highlands. the war, in which he fought and won so many battles, that, as Lord Clarendon expresses it, "he made himself, upon the matter, master of the kingdom." The victories of Montrose raised the reputation of the Highlanders, and fixed them in the interest of the family of Stuart, to which they were naturally well inclined; for, ignorant and careless of the disputes civil and religious which occasioned the war, Charles the First appeared to them in the light of an injured chief.

At the restoration, the Highlanders, who had given such proofs of their loyalty to Charles the First, were in great favour with his sons Charles and James the Second, who looked upon them as the firmest friends of monarchy, and confided in them so much, that at every critical time, when there was much discontent in both kingdoms, several thousand Highlanders were brought down to the western counties of Scotland by the ministers of Charles the Second, and employed as a body of troops to enforce the laws against the covenanters. Soon after the revolution, the Highlanders took arms against the government of King William. They were commanded by the Viscount Dundee; and at the battle of Killiecrankie defeated the king's army, which was greatly superior to them in number. Lord Dundee was killed in the battle; and his death may be said to have put an end to the rebellion. In speaking of the Highlanders, however, upon this subject, several clans are always to be excepted, which had taken a different side. In particular, the Campbells were attached to the revolution, because originally the Marquis of Argyle, their chief, had joined the covenanters, and they adhered to the side which they took during the civil wars.

In the meanwhile, after the revolution under King William, the Highlands of Scotland continued to be ne-

glected; they were too poor to admit of any revenue being derived from them; and the general government of the empire, occupied with other objects, allowed this neglected corner of the island, which by a difference of language was effectually divided from the remainder, to continue in a state perhaps not very different from that in which it had existed for a thousand years. The Highlanders, proud of their character of warriors, travelled, attended fairs and markets, and went to church, with their broad swords and dirks, and in later times with their muskets and pistols. This character and these habits rendered them formidable, when assembled in numbers, to a peaceable people, now totally unaccustomed to arms. Their chiefs, after the revolution, continued to correspond with the exiled princes of the house of Stuart; and in 1715, at the accession of the family of Hanover, a party of them took up arms under the Earl of Mar; but after a battle at Sheriffmuir against the royal forces under the Duke of Argyle, in which neither party was victorious, the insurrection declined, and terminated without any event of importance. At last, in 1745, a prince of the exiled family, having put himself at the head of such of the clans as he could collect, the British government was taught how dangerous it is to allow almost a whole nation to neglect the military art, while at the same time a portion of the people remain in arms, and in possession of warlike habits. A handful of Highlanders descended from their native mountains, seized the capital of Scotland, repeatedly defeated the royal regular armies, pressed into the centre of England; and had they done so sooner, instead of remaining at Edinburgh, detained by dissensions among their chiefs, they bid fair for accomplishing a revolution in the empire. They were only at last subdued by calling together a great army of four times their number. Highlands.

Highlands. These events demonstrated the necessity of putting an end to the ancient state of the Highlands, and of bringing them under the dominion of the laws like the rest of the island. Accordingly, large bodies of military were stationed there. Forts were erected, and roads formed, by bodies of troops, to give access to the military into all quarters of the country. The same course of events now began to occur in the Highlands, after the battle of Culloden in 1746, which had occurred in the south of Scotland after the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England; and in England itself after Henry the Seventh succeeded in overthrowing the power of the barons. In the Highlands the chiefs now ceased to be petty monarchs. The services of their followers were no longer requisite for defence, and could no longer be made use of for the plunder of a defenceless neighbour. The chiefs were reduced to the situation of other proprietors; and they were not long in discovering, that to subsist a numerous train of dependants was not the only way in which their estates could be rendered of value, and that the rents they received were far below those given for lands of equal quality in other parts of the kingdom. For a few years after the power of the chieftains was broken, the influence of old habits seems to have prevailed, and it was some time before any great change took place; but by degrees the proprietors began to exact a rise of rent. Though the first demands of this kind were extremely moderate, the rent being still far below the real value of the lands; yet the circumstance was so unprecedented that great dissatisfaction ensued; and the removal of some of the tenants who refused to comply excited still more indignation. Accustomed to transmit their possessions from father to son, as if they had been their property, the people seem to have thought, that as long as they paid the old and accus-

Changes after 1746.

tomed rent, and performed the usual services, their pos- Highlands.
sessions were their own by legal right.

The discontents which arose from these causes were for a time but partial, for the progress of raising rents was slow. The gentlemen who had been educated amidst the habits of the feudal times could not at once relinquish all the sentiments of their youth. The attachment of their people was of so flattering a nature that it was often preferred to pecuniary advantages; and little alteration seems to have been made till the generation of old proprietors was extinct. Gradually, however, men educated under different circumstances came forward, and feeling more feebly the influence of ancient connections with their dependants, they were not inclined to sacrifice, for a shadow, the substantial advantage of a productive property. The more necessitous or the less generous set the example, and one gradually followed another, till at length all scruple seems to be removed; and the proprietors in the Highlands have little more hesitation than proprietors in any other part of the kingdom in turning their estates to the best advantage.

There are still, indeed, a few chieftains who retain so much of the ancient feudal notions as to be unwilling to dispossess the old adherents of their families, and, from a tenderness towards them, submit to considerable loss. There are many others, who, from vanity, are desirous of counting a numerous tenantry, and would willingly preserve the population of their estates, if it could be reconciled to their pecuniary interest. These motives, though now wearing fast away, have, however, had great effect till of late; so that, notwithstanding the length of time that has elapsed since the year 1745, a very considerable proportion of the Highlands remains under circumstances directly arising out of the feudal state, or is at

Highlands.

this moment in the crisis of change. But the causes which have hitherto retarded the change are so much enfeebled that they cannot long continue to have a perceptible effect; and, as an unavoidable consequence, the Highlands in general must soon fall into that state which is most conducive to the pecuniary interest of its individual proprietors.

Depopulation of the Highlands retarded.

It may be remarked, however, that a variety of circumstances, independent of the pride or generosity of landlords, have continued, and do still continue, in a considerable degree, to retard the change now mentioned, and to preserve the population of the Highlands nearly in its ancient state. One of these was the important services which it has, at different periods, been in the power of the proprietors of Highland districts to perform to government in time of war, by forwarding the recruiting service, and by thereby obtaining for themselves, or their younger brothers or near kindred, preferment in the armies of the state. Previous to the year 1745, the power of a Highland chieftain over his vassals was of the same nature with that of a monarch over his subjects. He was their military leader, their judge, and their prince; and he was also the head of their name or kindred. "After the conquest of the Highlands, all the power of the chieftains over their followers rested," as justly remarked by the Earl of Selkirk, in his late publication on the Present State of the Highlands of Scotland, "on the essential basis of the low rent of their land; and on the greater or less continuance of this the subsequent state of the country has chiefly depended. Those proprietors who continued to exact rents very inadequate to the real value of their land, maintained all their former authority over the tenantry, perhaps even a still greater; for, during the feudal times, this authority was tempered by the dependence

of the gentry on the affection of their followers for personal safety. After the year 1745, the tenantry had no such return to make for the means of subsistence they derived from the indulgence of their landlord. They felt, at the same time, that he must be under frequent temptations to discontinue that indulgence, and therefore were still more anxious than formerly to merit his favour. Highlands

"The only opportunity they had of rendering him any important obligation was when he undertook to raise men for the army. The zeal with which the followers of any chieftain then came forward to enlist was prompted, not only by affection and the enthusiasm of clanship, but likewise by obvious views of private interest. The tenant who, on such an occasion, should have refused to comply with the wishes of his landlord, was sensible that he could expect no further favour, and would be turned out of his farm. The more considerable the possession he held, the greater was his interest and his obligation to exert himself. The most respectable of the tenantry would therefore be among the first to bring forward their sons. The landlord might, with an authority almost despotic, select from among the youth upon his estate all who appeared most suitable for recruits. The gentry of the Highlands were in general too good politicians to make a wanton display of this power; and well enough acquainted with the temper of their people, to know that they would come forward with more alacrity if allowed to indulge the flattering idea that their exertions were the spontaneous effect of attachment to the chief; yet, perhaps, no man of penetration in the country ever doubted the real cause of the facility with which the Highland landlords could raise such numbers of men with such magical rapidity.

"It is easy to see, how superior a body of men, thus composed, must be to a regiment recruited in the ordinary

Highlands. manner in other parts of the kingdom. As long as the old system remained in its purity, as long as the rents in the Highlands continued nearly at their old standard, the Highland regiments maintained a very superior character. Instead of the refuse of a manufacturing town, these regiments were composed of hardy mountaineers, whose ordinary mode of life was a perfect school for the habits of a soldier. They were composed of the most respectable of the peasantry; men for whose fidelity and good conduct there was a solid pledge in the families they left at home, and in the motives that induced them to enter into the service; men who had much stronger motives of obedience to their officers than the lash can enforce, who were previously accustomed, from their infancy, to respect and obey the same superiors who led them into the field; who looked on them as their protectors not less than their commanders; men in whose minds the attachment of clanship still retained a large portion of its ancient enthusiasm. Besides this, each corps being collected from the same neighbourhood, the men were connected by the ties of friendship and of blood; and every one saw in his companions those with whom he had to pass the rest of his life, whether in a military capacity or not. Every one was therefore more solicitous to maintain an unblemished character than he would have been among a medley of strangers, from whom he might soon be parted to meet no more. Thus, after the year 1745, the low rent of lands was the foundation of the value of the Highland regiments; and when that shall cease to exist, there is no possibility that its consequences can long continue. When the Highland chieftain exacts the full value for his land, his people, even if he could accommodate them all, will no longer be dependants; the relation between them must be the same as between a landlord and his tenants in any other part of the

kingdom. The great demand for men during the late war, and the uncommon advantages that accrued to those gentlemen who had still the means of influencing their tenantry, suspended for a time the extension of sheep-farming, and the progress of the advance of rents; the farms which would have been let to graziers, have been suffered to remain in the hands of the old petty tenants, and even a zeal produced for the augmentation of the population among many persons of consideration and influence in the Highlands." Highlands.

It is also to be remarked, that on the west coast, where the fisheries afford a profitable employment, some proprietors, and many factors, or great tacksmen under men of property, engage in that business; and such persons are extremely anxious to prevent any diminution of population. They act upon the same principle with the lairds of Shetland; that is, they are anxious to obtain service at a cheap rate, or fishermen, who are bound to deliver to their immediate landlord all the fish they catch at a fixed low rate. Factors, also, upon estates, besides engaging in the fisheries, are sometimes occupied in improvements of the lands in their own possession, and they are interested to obtain labourers for a cheap hire; and hence, so far as their influence reaches, they endeavour to preserve a numerous class of small tenantry or cottagers.

Still, however, the emigration from the Highlands, during the last half century, has been very considerable. Not only have vast multitudes gone into the sea and land service, and emigrated to the manufacturing towns and cotton-mills in the low country, but large emigrations to America have taken place. Such emigrations are more in the power of the common Highland people than of others of the same rank, who are accustomed to live in the same manner in the rest of the island. In the Highlands Emigration considerable.

Highlands. there are few villages, and few shops in which the necessaries of life can be obtained from day to day, as in the more cultivated parts of the island. Nobody is merely a tradesman or a day-labourer; every man, in the remoter districts, makes his own instruments of husbandry, shoes, and a variety of other articles. He also builds his own cottage, digs and brings home from the mountains his own peat, and rears the greater part of the grain or potatoes consumed in his family. Every family must possess a portion of land, or they cannot exist, because they cannot have regular employment as tradesmen. They all possess some cattle; and although a family, consisting of a man and his wife, several children, and three servants, was supposed, in 1797, to subsist annually upon little more than L.20 Sterling; yet the property of the same family, consisting of live stock and seed corn, &c. would amount to nearly L.100, L.150, or L.200. Indeed, in the remotest parts of the county of Sutherland, the meanest person possesses several head of cattle; while the better sort of farmers, though necessarily accustomed to live with a degree of frugality, which in the south would be accounted equivalent to extreme misery, are nevertheless possessed of considerable herds of cattle. The practice of throwing several small into one large farm, and of turning great tracts into sheep pasture, has rendered it difficult for individuals to retain an old, or obtain a new settlement; while, at the same time, the price of cattle having at times been very high, has tempted multitudes of little Highland farmers, in all quarters, to sell off their stock, and to transport themselves and their families beyond the Atlantic, in quest of new settlements. They were induced to do this by their total unfitness for engaging with success in any sort of employment in the manufacturing towns of Scotland or England, and by the prospect of obtaining

lands, whereby to rise to independence by the only em- Highlands.
ployment which they understood. These emigrations have been so numerous, that a regular correspondence is kept up between the emigrants on the other side of the Atlantic and their kindred at home; and the flattering representations which are often sent of the cheapness and fertility of soil in the western world, operate as a powerful temptation to induce those who remain at home to join their brethren in their new settlements. Travellers into the Highlands have sometimes been surprised to see large numbers of persons, possessing a considerable sum of money, and who had lived under mild landlords, seemingly possessed of a rage for deserting their native country: But it must be remarked, that although the inhabitants of the low country were not aware of the changes that were taking place in the Highlands; yet the Highlanders themselves, who from the highest to the lowest are generally men of much penetration and sagacity, were fully sensible of the nature of their situation, and of the state of change and of dependence in which they were placed. Many of them, therefore, have not waited to be dismissed from their farms, which they foresaw might occur on the death of an indulgent master, or at the termination of their leases, but have anticipated their destiny, sold off their effects when the market for cattle seemed high, and, before old age should come upon them, have endeavoured to provide a permanent settlement for their families in the western world. Thus, a considerable extent of capital, and many valuable men and their families, have been lost to the British empire.

During the late war of the French revolution, and at the period when an interval of peace returned, the emigration of the Highlanders was considered as a sort of criminal act, which ought to be prevented. During the war

Highlands. the emigration had been diminished by the drains occasioned by the public service, and by the inclination of proprietors to allow their lands to be held at a low rate, to enable them to levy recruits for the army with ease; but the return of peace put an end to both these causes, and emigration instantly became extremely general. The Highland Society of Scotland, either not understanding the subject correctly, or moved by the interested representations of factors and great tacksmen upon estates, and others who wished to obtain service at a very cheap rate, obtained an act of parliament for the purpose of rendering emigration as costly and difficult as possible. The provisions of the statute consist of allowing great privileges to British vessels, and of prohibiting any vessel from conveying abroad more than a small number of emigrants in any out-voyage. Considering the quarter from which the measure proceeded, it was evidently most grossly oppressive; because, if proprietors of Highland estates turn out their tenants, and at the same time provide for them no other profitable mode of employing their little capital, it is evidently most unjust to restrain these poor people from seeking a new advantageous settlement in the only part of the habitable globe where it can be obtained. As already mentioned, these Highlanders, from their education, are necessarily unfit for engaging in the service of manufacturers, or even of husbandmen, otherwise than in the meanest station. Their little capitals could go only a miserable length towards educating or establishing their families in great towns; and hence they were rashly blamed for making the only attempt in their power to avoid sinking into poverty, or to ameliorate their condition. The effect of the statute only has been to embarrass the lowest class of tenants in their attempts to emigrate, by rendering the measure somewhat more expensive; the meaner cottagers of the Highlands who had families sel-

Law against emigration.

dom had it in their power to emigrate at any period. The effect upon them of the statute was therefore of no importance. They have generally, when removed from their possessions, departed to the low country or towns upon the coast, or, in the miserable character of mailers, which we described when treating of Cromarty, they have settled upon any small portions of waste land which they could obtain. The loss of population which occurs by emigration is probably of little political importance, because it is well known that every country peoples up to its resources. If as much human food is produced in the Highlands as formerly, that food will find consumers; and it can be of no importance to the state to provide industriously that Highland mutton shall be consumed beyond the Grampians, rather than in Dundee, Perth, Glasgow, or Edinburgh. It is even, perhaps, more generally advantageous, that the latter districts of the country should be more closely peopled, because the Highlands never can possess great cities, and it is by these that arts and manufactures are best improved. Highlands.

It is generally found that sheep-farming is the most beneficial mode of occupying a large proportion of the Highlands. Independent of the value of the wool, the mountain pasture is better fitted for supporting them than larger animals, that is, horned cattle. The principal inhabitants of a glen often join together, and become tacksmen of the mountains, which they occupy with sheep; but in proportion as capital is acquired by individuals in the Highlands, and in proportion as speculating graziers go thither from the low country, it is evident that the farms must fall into fewer hands. Large tracts of the valleys are no doubt arable, and they are still occupied by small tenants and cottagers; but the ordinary progress of an improving agriculture, and of raising rents, must necessarily be to expel by degrees the ancient possessors, and to con-

Highlands. vert great tracts of hill and dale into single farms; the latter to be kept under the plough, to afford winter food for the stock which the mountains support in summer. If the patriotic proprietors of the Highlands wish to retain in the country the tenants who possess some capital, and who are likely to emigrate to America, there seems to be only one mode of accomplishing the object with success. Government have of late, by commencing the formation of a great canal through Inverness-shire across the island, attempted to find employment for the Highlanders at home; but in that manner a resource is only provided, in the mean time, to the poorer Highlanders, who are destitute of capital, and no inducement to remain at home is held out to the tenants, who, on being dismissed from their farms, are enabled, by the sale of their stock, to raise a sum of money, with which they naturally endeavour to procure a permanent establishment and provision for their families. The only way in which that object can be accomplished would probably consist of imitating the measure adopted by our ancestors in the low country, when the dominion of law was first established, of creating villages in convenient stations. This, indeed, has been attempted by many public-spirited proprietors, and particularly those of Banffshire, as formerly mentioned. In many cases, however, in the Highlands, this measure has not been attempted upon proper principles.

Villages, why oft unsuccessful. In some cases government has established fishing villages; and in other cases great proprietors have endeavoured to establish villages, but without producing the effect of inducing the Highland tenantry to settle in them, or commercial and enterprising men from the low country to fix themselves there, and to establish manufactures or commerce. The reason usually is, that the settlement is undertaken with too narrow views. A village is lotted out, and to each lot of building ground

is appropriated a small croft or portion of land, to be occupied as a garden, and for rearing a little arable crop. The whole of the remaining territory in the neighbourhood, to the distance of many miles, belongs to some nobleman or other great proprietor. It is clear that no manufacturer or trader, who aspires to riches or independence, will ever settle in such a village; and the same circumstance will prevent it from becoming an eligible retreat for a Highlander who is removed from his farm, and possesses some capital, but who sees that his children cannot prosper by settling in such villages. A trader or manufacturer will not settle in them, because he not only sees that, in case of attaining to prosperity, he can never purchase land without emigrating from that part of the country; but that, even if he should find it necessary or convenient to keep some horses or cows, he can have no means of doing so without permission from the factor of the neighbouring laird. Should he offend that factor, he cannot occupy a portion of territory beyond his house, and his miserable little croft in the village. He can occupy no station requisite for machinery, and may easily, at the pleasure of the factor, be made to find the country too hot for him. Highlands

Our forefathers in the low country appear to have acted differently, in former times, when they established towns. It will generally be found, in the neighbourhood of every considerable village in the Lowlands, not only that the village itself was originally sold or feued out in lots by the great proprietor or baron who established it, and that to every building lot a proportion of croft or arable land was annexed, together with a piece of moor pasture, and perhaps also a piece of moss to supply fuel; but also that several small farms, scattered a mile round in every direction, were sold or feued out for a reserved rent, consisting in some cases of grain, and in

Highlands. other cases of money. As a considerable portion of territory was thus brought into frequent commerce, by belonging to a number of small proprietors, among whom, by death, bankruptcy, emigration, and otherwise, a variety of revolutions were continually taking place, persons of some ambition and activity were induced to settle on the spot. If they had a little capital, they could therewith purchase a little lot of ground which would descend to their heirs; with the remainder of their capital they could engage in some sort of traffic; and they saw that, if successful, opportunities would never be wanting of enlarging their possessions by additional purchases of land. These purchases were the more easy on this account, that the great proprietor who established such a colony had, in the first sales, usually reserved a rent equal to the full value of the lands; so that the second and successive purchasers, being always bound to pay this ground-rent, only in truth bought and paid a price for the improvements by building, inclosing, and cultivation, which had been made upon the lands. It was in this way that proprietors of lands, in former times, in some measure indemnified their vassals for being turned out of their farms, by giving them an opportunity of attaining to independence. Besides those who could afford to buy lands and build houses, many others went to these villages in the character of labourers or tradesmen, and by degrees capital was acquired, and the arts made to flourish, by the resort of persons of skill and enterprise.

In like manner, it is very evident that, in those places of the Highlands where mere building ground, with perhaps a bit of croft, is allotted to a village, while the whole neighbouring territory belongs to a great proprietor, whose estate is perhaps entailed, and thereby rendered as unalienable as a churchyard, no great exertions in trade or manufactures can be expected; because men of

capital, whether Highlanders or Lowlanders, will avoid settling there. To such an object some square miles, at least, ought to be sacrificed; and that can be of no great importance in many parts of the Highlands. Few proprietors, however, have been so liberal as to afford to the ancient vassals of their families the sort of independence produced by villages of any sort, when removed from their farms, and have been unwilling to alienate, though under no diminution of rent, even the smallest portions of their territory. In such a case, it is evidently most unjust to complain that the Highlanders have had recourse to emigration, instead of remaining in their own country, expending their little capital, in the expectation that, at some future period, their landlords will become more reasonable, and will afford them a permanent establishment, by laying out villages, in which they can purchase lots and build houses. Highlands.

We have already said, however, and we shall again have occasion to remark, that some patriotic proprietors have made great exertions in this way; and thereby, in consequence of their liberality in erecting villages and granting feus, rendered more valuable the remainder of their estates, improved the condition of their people, and augmented the resources and industry of their country. We have already mentioned the estates of Skibo and Pulrossie, belonging to the family of Dempster; and it is proper that we should here take notice of the plan for their improvement which about the year 1793 was formed by George Dempster, Esq. of Dunnichen. The farms there were small in regard to the extent of arable ground, and the rent of 18,000 acres was less than L.800 a-year; of which more than a fourth was paid by two farms belonging to the mansion-house. The tenants, according to the custom of the Highlands, paid their rents by the Plan of improvement on Skibo.

Highlands. sale of cattle, which were fed in their houses on straw during the winter, and picked up a miserable subsistence on the moor-ground in summer. The estates furnished some wood, with which, and the sward surface of the ground cut into the form of large bricks, the people made houses for themselves, which they covered with turf cut thinner. Once in three years these houses, excepting the wood, were thrown to the dunghil, and new houses built. The cattle occupied one end of the dwelling-house during winter. The young men were accustomed to go in spring to the south to engage in country labour; and many of the young women did so in harvest. They returned before winter, and spent their time in great idleness, although the women had begun to earn a little money by spinning. Mr Dempster, who was proprietor of Skibo, and manager of his brother's estate of Pulrossie, did not immediately attempt to raise the rents of the tenants; but, on the contrary, encouraged them to improve their little spots of land, and to build houses for themselves of more durable materials. On the banks of the Kyle, also, which is a navigable frith or arm of the sea, he lotted out two villages, and prevailed with a company from Glasgow, at one of them, to erect a manufacture of spinning cotton by jennies, and to employ the natives in weaving. In another village, he procured a gentleman to establish the weaving of linen, to receive apprentices for that purpose, and thereby to encourage the extension of the spinning of yarn throughout the country. The object was to introduce the art of weaving into the houses of small tenants, as had been previously done in some parts of the counties of Renfrew, Perth, and Aberdeen. All the services formerly performed by the tenants were changed into money payments. The waste lands were thrown open to every settler who chose to cultivate them; and they soon found most industrious inhabitants upon the follow-

ing terms: The first settlers were allowed to improve as much waste land as they were able, for which they paid only one shilling a-year during their lives. At their death their heirs were to be allowed, if they thought fit, to occupy their fathers possessions at an appraised value, to be fixed by arbitrators mutually chosen. This rent is to remain invariable till the next generation, when the valuation is to be repeated, and so on for ever. In this way, a plan was devised for improving these estates, without cost to the proprietors, and without expelling the old tenants, or introducing sheep-farming, and also without alienating any portion of the property, excepting the stations for the villages; while, at the same time, considerable portions of improved land were rendered of easy access to prosperous persons, without danger of being suddenly removed. The mere waste grounds, totally incapable of culture, were reserved by the proprietor for plantations of trees to afford shelter for the whole. Highlands.

Such a plan as this might not be suitable to those parts of the Highlands where the valleys are most narrow, and the mountains extremely rugged, so as to afford little scope for agricultural improvement. It could not ultimately, perhaps, prevent the accumulation of land in the hands of a few occupiers consistently with the interest of landlord and tenant; but, in the mean time, it has been productive of much benefit to the quarter of the country into which it was introduced, by giving rise to much industry, and leading gradually, by the establishment of villages and manufactures, to that state of things which appears to be the source of general prosperity, without occasioning emigration, in the mean time, or hardship to the ancient tenants of the soil. The plan has been successful in a very considerable degree, the land has been greatly improved, and the condition of the inhabitants much ameliorated; though, in the first

Highlands. instance, the proprietor reaps his share of the advantage more slowly. It is remarked by the benevolent contriver of the project, "that the increase of rents, by converting cattle-breeding farms into sheep-walks, would be more sudden than by the system here projected; but that the estates would ultimately become more valuable is by no means so clear a proposition. Tracts of land which have been converted into sheep-farms yield little more, at an average, than L.1 Sterling *per* 100 acres. This is, indeed, a better rent than before; but how contemptible must this rent appear when compared with an estate occupied by industrious manufacturers, and abounding in large woods of the finest fir, birch, and other trees! It is to be observed, too, that there is a certain incompatibility between sheep and people and trees. No care can protect new plantations from the depredations of sheep; they overleap every fence, and elude the utmost vigilance of the shepherd. The leaves of trees are their favourite food in summer; and the bark is their medicine, as well as food, in winter. The lower grounds, now occupied by people, must be reserved for the food and shelter of the flock in winter: and this circumstance seems to form the chief incompatibility between sheep and people."

After all, however, as it cannot be expected that measures similar to these now mentioned should have been universally adopted; and as the conversion of the country into sheep-farms is the speediest and shortest mode of deriving from it an ample rent, that mode of occupation has been very generally adopted. Though the ancient tenants of the soil have been generally preferred, yet in many places they maintain a hard struggle against strangers with a large capital; and even the success of one of themselves, in acquiring riches sufficient to enable him to become

tacksman of a large portion of territory, no less effectually drives out the old tenants than if a stranger had obtained the possession. Highlands.

It must again be observed, that these remarks do not apply particularly to the county of Sutherland: on the contrary, in this county, uncommon exertions of generosity have been made in preventing any hardship from being sustained by the ancient tenants, in consequence of the changes which a new state of society, and the progress of improvement are introducing; and perhaps less proportional alteration has hitherto occurred in this remote corner than elsewhere, because the principal proprietors were at once too wealthy and too benevolent to have recourse to those measures for augmenting their rental which have been elsewhere adopted.

It may be added, that the Highlands of Scotland, which at so late a period were the scene of so much intestine warfare and rapine, are at present one of the most orderly districts in the world, and inhabited by a people who have retained nothing of their former character, excepting their hospitality and civility to strangers, and their activity and decision in any enterprise in which they engage; being capable of the highest exertions of industry, providing only an adequate reward be held out to their view.

The population of Sutherland stands thus:

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			Total of Persons
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	
Assint . .	1934	3000	1157	1238	2395	—	—	2395
Clyne . .	1406	1660	728	915	1586	57	—	1643
Creich . .	1705	1730	913	1061	1826	148	—	1974
Dornoch .	2780	2541	1007	1355	366	106	1890	2362
Durness .	1000	1182	494	714	1204	4	—	1208
Ederachylis	869	1024	540	713	1178	17	58	1253
Farr . . .	2800	2600	1107	1301	949	83	1376	2408
Golspie . .	1790	1700	734	882	1531	85	—	1616
Kildonan .	1433	1365	654	786	800	28	612	1440
Lairg . .	1010	1350	535	674	294	1	—	1209
Loth . . .	1193	1370	616	758	174	64	—	1374
Reay . . .	—	—	376	489	535	32	298	865
Rogart . .	1761	2000	946	1076	1988	34	—	2022
Tongue . .	1093	1439	618	730	1337	11	—	1348
Total	20774	22961	10425	12692	16163	670	4234	23117

ROSS-SHIRE.

THE county of Ross is one of the most extensive in Scotland, being eighty miles in length and nearly the same in breadth. It extends across the island from the German Ocean to the Atlantic, and contains, according to Templeman, 2775 square miles, or 1,776,000 acres, being larger than any county in England, Yorkshire excepted. It also contains the island of Lewis, one of the Hebrides, or Western Isles of Scotland. The extent of Lewis, in addition to the above, is 880 square miles, or 561,200 acres. Ross is bounded by the county of Sutherland on the north, by the ocean and the small county of Cromarty on the east, by Inverness-shire on the south, and by the ocean on the west. It comprehends the districts of Gairloch, Kintail, Glensheil, Loch Alsh, Loch Carion, Glenelchaig, &c. Its form is very irregular, being much indented by numerous lochs and friths. Extent.

The eastern coast of Ross-shire, to a short distance from the sea, is ornamented with a variety of country seats belonging to the different proprietors, and is abundantly fertile in corn. It has at all times been considered as a part of the Lowlands of Scotland, and has been inhabited by persons who speak the English language. Beyond this tract, which is extremely narrow, the country to the westward rises into mountains, and becomes, in every respect, a part of the Highlands, in which the Erse language is spoken. The country becomes still more rude, and the General aspect.

Waters. mountains more generally lofty and terrific, in proportion as they approach towards the western coast. This results from the general inclination of the strata, which decline towards the east, and are broken off into rude precipices and naked rocks towards the west.

Waters. The Frith of Dornoch, which forms a considerable part of the north-eastern boundary of Ross-shire towards Sutherland, has been already described; and also the Frith of Cromarty, which runs far into the land from the Moray Frith. The river Ockel is one of the chief streams connected with this county. It rises in the parish of Assint, in Sutherlandshire, and after a course of upwards of forty miles, falls into the head of the Frith of Dornoch. The river Conon also flows towards the east coast. It falls into the extremity or most inland part of the Frith of Cromarty. It abounds with salmon; and pearls were formerly found near its mouth. The Beaulie forms the boundary of the county with Inverness-shire, to which county it more particularly belongs. The Moray Frith, after passing Inverness, extends to a great distance inland, under the name of the Moray Frith, or Frith of Beaulie, from this last river, which falls into its inland extremity. This Frith of Beaulie here forms the boundary of the county. The river Orrin is of inferior importance; it rises in the south-west border of the county, and falls into the Conon at the Kirk of Urray. The three friths already mentioned, or long bays, which advance into the country from the east coast, viz. the Friths of Dornoch, Cromarty, and Beaulie, are of considerable importance, as giving access, by means of water-carriage, to a considerable portion of it. The coast on this side is generally bold, as was formerly remarked when treating of the Moray Frith and Frith of Cromarty. Between Rosemarkie and Cromarty, that is, between the Moray Frith and the Frith of Cromarty, the coast is bold

Ockel.

Friths.

Bold coast.

and rocky. It abounds with romantic views and frightful precipices. Along these the ivy creeps in ragged cliffs, where hawks and wild pigeons nestle, and Waters.

"Low brow'd rocks hang nodding o'er the deep."

Crabs and lobsters are dragged from holes among the rocks, with old corn hecks, by country women; and seals are often seen on them, and otters shot, though not very numerous. There are likewise a variety of curious natural caves along the shore, some of them very deep, and one that runs quite through the rock for about fifty yards, affording an open passage to such as wish to examine it. Some of these have been used as a temporary lodging by fishers when there was a great shoal of herrings on the coast; and others resorted to by smugglers, as fit places for concealing their prohibited articles.

On the north side of the Frith of Cromarty, and in the parish of Nigg, on the east coast, a bold front of rocks is presented to the German Ocean. Here are found a number of natural caves; some of which are so capacious that they could contain from four to six hundred men each. The entrance to them is narrow, but within they widen to a great extent, are of an amazing height, and of a depth which no man would incline to examine. There are drops of water constantly distilling from the upper part of these caves, which, gradually petrifying, make them to appear above like an arch of the finest marble. In these different birds take up their residence; and numbers of pigeons hatch their young in them. Beds of sea-shells are found on the east coast of Ross-shire, at a considerable distance from the shore, so as to indicate that the country once had still more friths and bays than at present, and that, upon the whole, the ocean has receded. Caverns.

The west coast of the county is very deeply indented

Waters. with bays or arms of the sea, here called lochs. They advance to an immense distance inland, amidst a country that is astonishingly wild and mountainous. One of the

Loch Broom. chief of these is Loch Broom. It consists of a sort of double bay. The first, or nearest the sea, is called Loch More, which terminates in a narrow strait; after which the sea again widens, forming Loch Broom, and extending to a great distance inland. As Loch Broom is one of the greatest retreats of the shoal of herrings, the banks of it have been made the seats of some fishing stations, established by the British Society; particularly Ulla Pool. There are two other fishing stations in the same bay; one at Isle Martin, five miles north of Ulla Pool, and another at Isle Tanera, a mile north of Isle Martin. Besides these two stations, the coast is indented with numerous safe bays. A small stream rises in the mountains, on the borders of Sutherlandshire, and gives name to the station of Ulla Pool. To the southward of Loch Broom is another extensive bay, called Little Loch Broom, which is long and narrow, but not of such extent as the former. Along the whole west coast are numberless mountain torrents, which it would be in vain to specify, because they are of no importance, being intercepted, before they have run to any distance, by the numerous arms of the sea which advance to so great a distance inland. To the southward of Loch

Loch Mari. Broom is a fresh-water lake of great extent, Loch Mari, in the parish of Gairloch. It is about sixteen miles in length, and of various breadth, generally about one or two miles. It contains twenty-four small islands, beautified with fir trees, and a variety of other kinds of wood. On the largest island, called Islan Mari, there are the remains of an ancient Druidical edifice, and around it a burial place, where the inhabitants on the north side of the loch inter

their dead. It discharges itself into an arm of the sea called Loch Ew. Waters.

Gairloch, in the same neighbourhood, has been for many ages famous for the cod-fishing. One proprietor sends to market annually, upon an average, betwixt 30,000 and 40,000 cod, exclusive of the number with which the country people serve themselves. Gairloch hath also, from time immemorial, been remarkable for the herring fishing. To the southward, the district of Kintail is peninsulated by the narrow arms of the sea called Loch Gairon, on the north, and Loch Duich and Loch Long on the south. These, like most of the other salt-water lochs or arms of the sea on the west coast, afford excellent fishing stations, and a safe retreat for ships. Gairloch.

It may be observed, that in the parish of Loch Alsh, off the west coast, there are large banks of corals; these are beat by the sea into the size and colour of confected caraways, and are found valuable as manure, forming a sort of shelly sand, which will be afterwards mentioned. Some enterprising proprietors on the east coast have even carried it round by the Pentland Frith in barrels.

Besides the lochs which are connected with the sea, and Loch Mari, already mentioned, there are to be met with, in the valleys among the mountains of Ross-shire, considerable numbers of lakes of one, two, or three miles in length, some of which afford beautiful scenery. They have the general character of Highland lakes, consisting of a stream flowing in the valley between adjacent chains of mountains; and where the valley happens to be universally hollow or flat, the water spreads out to a considerable distance into a lake. They are too seldom approached to by travellers, and are of too difficult access to require particular description.

It would be in vain to attempt to specify the remark-

Mountains. able mountains, or even chains of mountains, in a country that is all mountainous, excepting the narrow tract on the east coast and the friths, which there advance from the German Ocean. We ought not, however, to pass without notice Tulloch Ard, a lofty mountain in Ross-shire, in the district of Kintail, which claims particular attention, on account of its importance in ancient times. Like the temple of Janus of ancient Rome, it indicated peace or war; for, when war commenced, a barrel of burning tar on the highest peak was the signal, and in twenty-four hours all the tenants and vassals of Seaforth appeared at the Castle of St Donan, armed *pro aris et focis*. This mountain is the crest of Seaforth's arms.

Tulloch Ard.

Ben-Uaish. Ben-Uaish, in the parish of Kiltearn, on the east coast, towers above the rest of the mountains. It is seen across the Moray Frith, in the counties of Moray and Elgin, or of Banff. It is perpetually covered with snow; and the reddendo or quit-rent from the family of Foulis, for the tenure of the forest of Uaish, is the payment of a snow-ball to his Majesty, on any day of the year, if required. And we are assured that a quantity of snow was actually sent hence to the Duke of Cumberland, when at Inverness, in summer 1746, to cool his wine. There is a great deal of heath and coarse grass, which is excellent pasture for cattle, all around the hill; and this forest is well stocked with deer and a variety of moor-game.

In the parish of Kincardine, also, which is on the east coast, it may be observed, that on the top of the highest mountain in Balnagoun's forest, called *Sculm-a-bharra*, which is distant many miles from the sea, shells of different sorts of fish are found, some of them in beds well covered with earth.

Size of estates. The territory of this county is better divided than that of Sutherland; at the same time it contains some very

large estates. Its valuation in the cess-books, according to the estimate made in the time of Charles the First, and by which public burdens are imposed, amounts to L.75,040, 10s. 3d. Scottish money. The valuation of one estate amounts to no less than L.12,928 : 10s. being upwards of one-sixth of the whole county. The county contains seven proprietors whose valuation is above L.3000 Scots; three whose valuation is above L.2000, but below L.3000; twelve proprietors whose valuation is above L.1000, and below L.2000; a fourth class of proprietors, amounting to sixteen in number, hold lands valued from L.400 to L.1000; and, lastly, forty-four proprietors hold estates valued at less than L.400 Scots. This last class, of course, have no vote in the election of the member of parliament. The whole state of property is summed up thus, in his "View of the Agriculture of the Northern Counties and Islands," by Sir John Sinclair. Size of Estates.

Number of Proprietors.		Account of Valuation.		
First class.....	7.....	L.33,482	9	7
Second class...	3.....	7,081	15	2
Third class....	12.....	17,675	4	0
Fourth class...	16.....	9,597	13	4
Fifth class.....	44.....	7,203	8	2
	82	L.75,040	10	3

Of the whole, L.20,885 : 6 : 4 Scots is entailed; the remainder is exempted from any restriction of that nature. The chief clans which inhabit this county are the M'Kenzies, the Rosses, the Frazers, the M'Kays, the M'Raeys, and Monros.

With regard to its soil, and the mode in which it is occupied, the county may be considered as consisting of three districts of very unequal extent; the eastern, the western, and middle. There are few districts in the Soil. Three districts.

Agriculture.

Eastern district.

northern parts of Scotland where the climate is more favourable to agricultural pursuits than the eastern coast of Ross-shire, or where the pleasures and advantages of a country residence may be enjoyed in greater perfection. From Contin to the promontory of Tarbetness, in particular, there is a stretch of country, about sixty miles in length, possessed of many natural and artificial beauties, being situated on the borders of the beautiful Bay or Frith of Cromarty, adorned by the seats of many opulent and respectable proprietors, by whose exertions the lower parts of the district have been considerably improved, and the upper covered with plantations. Indeed, such are the natural advantages which this tract can boast of, that it has been counted little inferior, in point either of soil or climate, to Fife, though that county is situated so far to the south of it. Unfortunately, however, the part of it capable of cultivation rarely exceeds in breadth from one to two English miles, except towards the parishes of Nigg and Tarbet. The soil of this district, as may be easily conjectured from its extent, is extremely various. About Contin it is light and friable, calculated for turnips, barley, clover, and oats. In the parishes of Fodderty, Dingwall, and Kiltearn, there is a deep loam, fit to yeild weighty crops of wheat. On some fields on the estate of Tulloch, indeed, fifteen bolls of that grain have been produced *per* Scots acre after the first fallow. The soil in the parishes of Alness, Rosekeen, and Kilmuir, is light. In the parishes of Nigg and Easter Fearn, it is very rich and friable, and will carry any crops produced in the Lothians. Thence, to the eastern point of Tarbetness, there is a kindly but light soil. The lands in this county are occupied, partly by gentlemen who have considerable farms in their own hands, here called *mains* (either because situated near the mansion-house of the pro-

prietor, or a corruption of demesne), and partly by respectable farmers, who have pretty large possessions, particularly in pasture, whether for sheep or cattle. But by far the greater proportion of the country is occupied by small tenants, and by cottagers, known under the name of *mailers*, whose situation and circumstances have been already described in the account of Cromarty. Agriculture.

The gentlemen of this county are very spirited in the improvements they carry on, and follow every species of good husbandry practised in the south. The better sort of farmers are beginning to imitate their example: but the smaller tenants are far behind; indeed, keeping their land perpetually under corn, and never thinking of varying their system of husbandry.

The usual grains cultivated in Ross-shire are barley or bear, oats, potatoes, peas and beans, and sometimes wheat. Every rotation practised in the south has been attempted by the gentlemen; but the want of markets in the country has induced severals to lay their farms into grass. The grasses usually sown, either for hay or pasture, are red and white clover, with a mixture of rye-grass and rib-grass. The usual rotation practised by the small tenants, and which they have uniformly pursued, perhaps, for centuries, is bear or big, with dung, followed by two crops of oats, or sometimes a little peas, and always a quantity of potatoes; on which root their families subsist for nine months in the year: no clover, no turnip, no fallow; nor even a bit of what is called their infield, or old arable grounds, laid under grass. On the outfield ground, after ley, which is nothing but natural grass, they commonly take a crop or two of oats, then perhaps barley, then peas, or perhaps another crop of oats, and then ley again. The gentlemen and more extensive farmers make use of lime, Crops.

Agriculture. Manures. marl, and shelly sand, as manure. The practice of the smaller tenants is, to dig earth from large pits in the fields they mean to manure (often in the middle of their land), with which they make a compost, at the rate of one load of dung for three of earth. This is spread on their *white*, that is, their *stubble* land, in February. The manure is then ploughed down, and another ploughing given in the end of April, on which they sow their bear or big. Marl abounds in many parts of this district, and sea-weed is also found. The shelly sand is accounted an uncommonly valuable manure; it lasts from twelve to sixteen years, and converts a light brown insipid soil into rich black loam. Fences. From forty to sixty barrels are sufficient for an acre. The farms of the gentlemen, and some of the more respectable tenants, are inclosed; but the country in general lies open. Land inclosed and subdivided is reckoned worth from a fourth to one-half more rent than in an open-field state. From the shelter which inclosures afford, not only stock, but also the quantity and quality both of corn and grass, are greatly improved. The size of the inclosures in this country varies much, but in general they are from six to sixteen acres. Different opinions are entertained respecting the best system of inclosing. Some prefer the double stone dike or wall, particularly if stone can easily be had. It makes at once a complete fence; or, as is sometimes said, "it is major the day it is born." It is not easy for any sort of stock to break through, or to get over it, light mountain sheep alone excepted; and if any part of the wall or dike happens to fall, the materials are always on the ground to repair it at a small expence. At Tulloch, and many other parts of the county, sunk fences, with hedges, rows of trees, or stripes of planting, have been made.

Among the smaller tenants leases run from five to seven

years, at the end of which there is frequently an augmentation of rent. The shortness of the leases, and the risk of an augmentation, is an eternal bar to improvement; for the tenant can reap but little benefit from his labour in so short a space of time; and if he have done any thing more than his neighbours, his farm is coveted, and he must either give a greater increase of rent than perhaps it can bear, or he runs the risk of being turned out. There are several estates, however, in the letting of which different principles have been adopted. Agriculture.

No set of gentlemen in Scotland have been more attentive to the police of their county than the proprietors of Ross-shire. In the lower part of the county, in particular, good roads are every where to be met with; and bridges are built over every rivulet. These roads have all been formed by the statute labour. The gentlemen of Ross have of late years been indefatigable in carrying on plantations. The barren moors they have covered with firs, and round their houses they have raised the finer kind of pines, with timber of different sorts; and when properly kept, there is not an instance of their having failed. Without entering into any particular detail, in regard to every place distinguished by this species of improvement, it may be sufficient to remark, that Braan Castle, Tulloch, Foulis, Novar, Balnagoun, Geanies, and Tarlogie, can boast of surrounding plantations, which rival, in point of extent and success, almost any in the island. The Scottish fir, the oak, the elm, and the beech, thrive particularly well. The larch is also found to answer, and is coming every day more and more into repute. It has been found that fruit trees, as various sorts of pears and apples, and even the apricot, the peach, and the plum, are equal in flavour and quality to the generality of those produced in the southern parts of Scotland. Several gen- Improvements.

Agriculture.

lemen have brought under cultivation large tracts of waste ground, by placing upon them poor Highlanders and others, in the character of mailers or cottagers, in such situations as appeared most adapted for improvement. The encouragement given these new settlers is various. Some give them wood for building a house, a pick and a spade, with what seed they require for the first year, to sow on any new ground they bring into culture; and they are allowed to remain for the first seven years without paying any consideration, except one fowl and twenty eggs: Others get leases for life; but all upon condition that they annually dig and improve as much new ground as will sow one firlot of grain (about the fourth of an acre). From their improvements, several gentlemen, who adopted the plan early, have, in consequence of the rent paid by the cottagers at the expiration of the original lease, added considerably to their income. The great objection to this mode of improvement is, that these poor people, not being able to raise a sufficient quantity of food for their cattle during the winter season, are thence under the necessity of preying upon their more fortunate neighbours, and on that account wish to have the whole country a common after the harvest is got in; a fatal bar to every species of improvement, particularly to winter crops, &c.

Middle district.

The central district, or interior part of Ross-shire, tho' exceedingly mountainous, is justly described as an extensive and beautiful Highland country; the straths or valleys of which are rich and fertile, whilst the hills produce abundance of grass for feeding cattle, horses, sheep, and goats. Till of late this district was inhabited by a number of small farmers, who maintained themselves and their families from the produce of the little spots they had to cultivate, and who in favourable seasons were enabled to pay the trifling rent exacted by the landlord from

the profit of the cattle they possessed. The indolence in which they could indulge themselves, the abundance of fuel they enjoyed (an important article in a cold country), and the natural attachment which every individual must feel for his native soil and birthplace, made them attached to that mode of living and unwilling to quit it. In a public view, also, it was a matter of considerable importance to have a brave and hardy race of men kept in the country, who without much detriment to agriculture or commercial industry could at once be converted into soldiers. But of late a change of system has taken place. This extensive district is now converted from cattle into sheep farms; and there is no doubt of its being infinitely better calculated for the latter. For every pound of beef that a Highlander can send to market, a shepherd can at least bring three pounds of mutton. This is over and above the wool, which furnishes the staple for an useful manufacture, that never existed before. Hence the shepherd is enabled to pay at once a double rent with ease; and it can hardly be questioned, that in process of time Highland property will be tripled or quadrupled in value by sheep-farming. By sheep, also, the present heath-covered mountains of the Highlands will be rendered green and fertile, and greatly more productive of grass than at present. The result, however, upon the population of the country is very evident. In proportion as capital is acquired, whether by sheep-farmers who are Highlanders, or who are emigrants from the south, the farms must gradually augment in magnitude, and a smaller number of people find employment here. Agriculture.

In this district still remains the great forest of Fainish, twenty miles in length.

The western district of Ross-shire forms an extensive tract of country. The general aspect of it is extremely Western district.

Agriculture.

uninviting. A stranger who climbs a mountain beholds around him a prospect exhibiting a desolate and dreary region, where nothing can be seen, as far as the eye can reach, but vast piles of rocky mountains, with summits broken, serrated, and springing into every terrific form, and snowy glaciers lodged in the deep-shaded apertures. Yet amidst these hills, covered with heath, and dreary to the sight, are valleys both beautiful and very fertile; but being detached by hills, lofty and often inaccessible, the soil is exceedingly various. The shallow is the most prevalent, which frequent rains nourish into a state of fertility, of which it would otherwise be deficient.

Weeping climate.

The climate, like the surface of the country, is remarkably unequal; the same day is often diversified by the appearance of all the different seasons; and though occasionally there may be some tracts of dry weather, yet at no period can two successive days be wholly depended on. Indeed the seasons may be considered as always wet. Every thing almost is reckoned a sign of rain. If there be a cold or a hot day, we shall soon have rain; if a crow begin to chatter, she is calling for rain; if the clouds be heavy, or if there be a mist upon the tops of the hills, we shall see rain. In a word, a Highlander may make any thing a sign of rain; there is no danger he shall fail in his prognostication. Such a district is evidently better calculated for pasturage than for agriculture; yet even here, in spite of the climate, the Highlanders contrive to rear in the valleys scanty and precarious arable crops, chiefly by the aid of the crooked spade formerly described. But, in fact, the riches of this quarter of the island depend not on the productions of the soil, but of the sea; and it is principally in regard to the latter that its real value ought to be estimated. Loch Broom, Loch Gairloch, Loch Torriden, Loch Kissern, Loch Gairon,

Loch Duich, &c. abound with herrings and other inhabitants of the deep, more perhaps than any other part of these kingdoms. Along that extensive coast, one hundred ploughs are scarcely necessary to till the scanty spots which it is possible for them to cultivate; but there a thousand vessels might every season be loaded with valuable cargoes extracted from the ocean. It has been remarked that there exists an improper mode of catching herrings on this coast, particularly at Loch Broom, and also on the salmon fishings of this county. The vast shoals which annually assemble in the different lochs or arms of the sea on the west coast of Scotland, are attacked on all sides by a great number of ships and boats in the deep water, and are not permitted to reach their spawning ground. The consequence is, that the herrings, being frightened, wander about from place to place, without being permitted to spawn. If this mode of fishing is continued, there is reason to apprehend that in a few years they will be driven from the coast entirely. If, on the other hand, they were permitted to come up the different lochs to their spawning ground, they might be caught in much greater quantities, and the fry would, like the salmon, return next season to their native shore. Some of these lochs are so narrow at their entrance, that after permitting the herrings to pass, the bay might be crossed with nets, as in Sweden, and two-thirds of the whole shoal might be caught. Fisheries.

The minerals which have hitherto been discovered in this county, that are of any value, are chiefly freestone and limestone of different sorts; some of them of the nature of marble. Marl is also found, as already noticed, and ironstone abounds. A tradition exists, that it was smelted in a former age on the banks of the arm of the sea called Loch Ew. In the northern district of the parish Minerals.

Minerals. of Applecross, there is a copper mine, which Williams, in his Mineral Kingdom, considers as equally rich with any in Great Britain. In the parish of Kincardine, on the farm of Dibsdale, stands one of the highest mountains, called Carnchuinaig, on which stones have been found perfectly similar to those known by the name of cairngorums. Knockirny, where this parish marches with Assint, abounds with marble, white and party-coloured. In the parish of Alness, a very rich ore of iron, which seemed to be of considerable extent, has been discovered. By an analysis it was found to contain seventy-five pounds *per* hundred weight of excellent iron. A vein of lead, rich in silver, has also been found in the same neighbourhood. In the parish of Kiltearn, in a rock on the banks of Aultnacaorach, *i. e.* the sheep-burn (a rivulet that falls into Aultgrande), there are indications of lead ore. The only trial of it ever made was about forty years ago, by one Charles Smith, a common miner, who smelted a piece of the ore taken from this rock, which produced good lead. Near the storehouse of Foulis there is a chalybeate spring, which was drank with salutary effects above sixty years ago. There is another spring at Tienleod, above Foulis Castle, called St Colman's Well. Whether it has any medicinal virtue we have not heard; but it was a common practice, in the memory of some still alive, for superstitious persons to frequent the well, and, after drinking the water, to tie some rags to the branches of the surrounding trees as an offering to the saint. On the stream above mentioned, the Aultgrande, is a piece of territory worthy of notice as a specimen of the scenery not uncommon in Highland countries. It is a deep chasm or abyss formed by two opposite precipices, that rise perpendicularly to a great height, through which the Aultgrande runs for the space of two miles. It begins at the

Curious scenery.

distance of four miles from the sea by a bold projection into the channel of the river, which it diminishes in breadth by at least one-half. The river continues to run with rapidity for about three quarters of a mile, when it is confined by a sudden jutting out of the rock. Here the side-view from the summit is very striking. The course of the stream being thus impeded, it whirls and foams and beats with violence against the opposing rock, till, collecting strength, it shoots up perpendicularly with great fury, and, forcing its way, darts with the swiftness of an arrow through the winding passage on the other side. After passing this obstruction, it becomes in many places invisible, owing partly to the increasing depth and narrowness of the chasm, and partly to the view being intercepted by the numerous branches of trees which grow on each side of the precipice. About a quarter of a mile farther down, the country people have thrown a slight bridge, composed of trunks of trees covered with turf, over the rock, where the chasm is about sixteen feet wide. Here the observer, if he have intrepidity to venture himself upon such a tottering support, and can look down on the gulph below without any uneasy sensations, will be gratified with a view equally awful and astonishing. The wildness of the steep and rugged rocks; the gloomy horror of the cliffs and caverns, inaccessible by mortal tread, and where the genial rays of the sun never yet penetrated; the waterfals, which are heard pouring down in different parts of the precipice, which sound variously in proportion to their distance; the hoarse and hollow murmuring of the river, which runs at the depth of nearly 130 feet below the surface of the earth; the fine groves of pines, which majestically climb the sides of a beautiful eminence, that rises immediately from the brink of the

Minerals.

Tain. chasm: all these objects cannot be contemplated without exciting emotions of admiration.

Royal boroughs. In this county there are three royal boroughs, all situated in the eastern part, or narrow Lowland district of the county. These are Tain, on the south side of the Frith of Dornoch; Dingwall, at the inland extremity of the Frith of Cromarty; and Fortrose, on the north side of the Moray Frith.

Tain. The town of Tain is old and irregularly built, but a number of new houses have of late been erected; and as the country around is prosperous, while, at the same time, by increasing the size of farms, many persons who possess some property are induced to retire to towns, a considerable number of new houses have of late been reared in this place. The town contains an elegant building for assemblies and the meetings of free masons. It has lately received a considerable increase towards the east, where several acres of ground have been feued for building on the estate of Mr M'Leod of Geanies. This suburb is separated from the town by a small river, over which is a handsome bridge. The church was built about four hundred years ago. The mason work being all ashlar, is still entire and firm. It had a new roof about fifty years ago. There is a statue of St Dothus in the west gable. A little below the town are the remains of a chapel called by his name, having the gables, the north side wall, and a part of the south standing. To this place it is reported that King James the Fourth, in the way of penance, travelled on foot from Falkland with uncommon expedition, resting only a short while at the monastery of Pluscardine near Elgin. There is a tradition, that soon after this royal visit the edifice was burnt by a party of the Mackays, who were in pursuit of some persons obnoxious to them, that fled for shelter to that sanctuary.

The borough of Dingwall is pleasantly situated on a fertile plain at the western termination, as already mentioned, of the Frith of Cromarty, which is navigable to small vessels as far as the town. Dingwall was erected into a royal borough by Alexander the Second in 1226. By this charter, which another granted in the reign of James the Fourth confirmed, the town was empowered to choose a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, a treasurer, and ten counsellors. It was also entitled to all the privileges, liberties, and immunities, possessed by the town of Inverness. The town is one of the five boroughs constituting the northern district, and in common with Kirkwall, Wick, Dornock, and Tain, sends a member to parliament. There are some circumstances which would seem to indicate that the town was once much more extensive than it is now. The cross now stands at the east end of this borough; but a street of about 200 yards long runs from it to the north-east; and a gentleman of the town, in digging some time ago for manure, found the remains of a causeway at the distance of 300 or 400 yards, in a line south-east from the cross. The former had few houses built along it till forty or fifty years ago, and the latter has none yet near it. These circumstances, however, afford some kind of presumption that the ancient might have exceeded the present size of the place. The street north-east of the cross leads to the ruins of what once was the principal residence of the Earls of Ross. This building, standing close to the shore, had on three sides an extensive plain. It was situated at a considerable distance from any rising ground; and a little river, with a deep slimy channel, into which the sea flowed, winded about two of its sides. It seems to have been a regular fortification, which in those days was well adapted for defence. The castle was built at the west end. A part of

Dingwall.

Castle.

Fortrose. it which still remains has the stones so strongly cemented with mortar, that it is easier to break a solid rock than to separate those of which it is composed. To the north-east, but contiguous to the castle, there is an area of about half an acre, which was inclosed. The whole was surrounded with a deep ditch; and a regular glacis still remains. After the forfeiture of the Earl, the proprietor of the estate of Tulloch was appointed hereditary constable of the castle, and the trifling salary of twenty merks, or L.1 : 2 : $2\frac{2}{7}$ Sterling, is to this day annexed to the office. This Earl was once distinguished among the most powerful of the Scottish barons. He was lord or superior of a great part of this county, and many of its most considerable families possessed their lands by charters from him, dated *apud castrum nostrum de Dingwall.*

Obelisk. Near the church an obelisk stands, which, though of no great antiquity, attracts the notice of all travellers. It is erected on an artificial mount, the bottom of which covers about two-thirds of an English acre. The obelisk is six feet square at the base, and rises, in a pyramidal form, to the height of fifty-seven feet. It was erected by George first Earl of Cromarty, secretary of state for Scotland in the reign of Queen Anne, and was intended to ornament and distinguish this spot, which he designed to be the burying place of his family.

Fortrose. We have said that the borough of Fortrose stands upon the Moray Frith. It may be remarked, that the appellation of Moray Frith is given, with little discrimination, to bodies of water very differently situated. The coast of Nairn, Moray, Banff, and Aberdeenshire, advancing eastward, and the coasts of Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness, stretching to the north-east, form an immense angle or bay of the German Ocean, called the Moray Frith. The south-western point of this bay is extremely narrow, and has on

one side Fort George, and on the other Fortrose, also called Rosemarkie. After passing the narrow ferry beween Fort George and Rosemarkie, the frith widens into a considerable sea, which still retains the name of the Moray Frith, but is not so large as many of the Highland lochs. It again contracts near Inverness, where there is another ferry, and afterwards widens, proceeding still to the south-west; being here sometimes called the Moray Frith, and sometimes the Frith of Beaulie, from the river that flows into it. Fortrose, as already mentioned, stands at the first contraction of the Moray Frith into a narrow strait. Fortrose consists of two towns or villages, Rosemarkie and Canonry, joined together by royal charter. Rosemarkie was erected into a royal borough by Alexander, King of Scotland; which of them is not specified; but it was probably Alexander the Second. About a mile to the west of it stands the town of *Chanonry*, so called from its being the Chanonry of Ross, where the bishop formerly had his residence, and which is now the presbytery seat. It was united to the borough of Rosemarkie by a charter granted by King James the Second, *anno* 1444, under the common name of *Fortross*, now softened into Fortrose; which charter was ratified by King James the Sixth *anno* 1592, and confirmed in a still more ample form by the same monarch in the year 1612. These charters bear that it was to be "entitled to all the privileges, liberties, and immunities, granted to the town of Inverness." Fortrose is then spoken of as a town flourishing in the arts and sciences, having been at that time the seat of divinity, law, and physic, in this corner of the kingdom. It has been remarked, that for ages past the greater part of the inhabitants of the lower class in Chanonry have been shoemakers, and in Rosemarkie weavers; and they commonly train their children to the same occupations. The shoe-

Fortrose.

Fortrose. makers not only furnish shoes for the parish, but carry a parcel weekly for sale to Inverness; though they complain that the tanners enjoy almost all their profit. The weavers are constantly employed in working linen; a considerable quantity of which is sold at two annual fairs, which circulate a good deal of money in the place.

They raise and manufacture the flax themselves from which the linen is made. At present the town is small, and owes its consequence to the late establishment of an academy, under the direction of several public-spirited gentlemen in the neighbourhood, for the education of young persons in the languages and the principles of natural philosophy. It has a rector and two masters, who receive a salary from a mortification of 1800 merks Scots, in 1699, by Mr Thomas Forbes, bailie of Fortrose, which had been allowed to accumulate to a considerable sum.

Cathedral. Only a small part of the ancient cathedral now remains. This seems to have been a wing that ran from east to west, with an arched roof, about one hundred feet in length and thirty in breadth. It had a communication by entries or porches with the main body of the cathedral. It was preserved and repaired by some of the bishops since the restoration as a place for public worship; but now it has gone much to decay; and, as the roof is in danger of falling in, it is quite deserted. It is still used as a burial-place by the M'Kenzies and other old families in this country. No inscriptions are to be found about it worth notice, excepting one on a large bell now hung on a small modern spire. It bears the name of Mr Thomas Tulloch as bishop of Ross, and declares the bell to have been dedicated to the "most holy Mary and the blessed Boniface, *anno Domyny* 1460." There are some stone coffins in niches by the inside of the wall, with figures of the bishops in their canonicals elegantly cut in stone; but

they are much defaced by time, and no name or year is to be seen on them. In the direction of the main body of the cathedral, at the east, and detached from its remains, stands a house that was probably the vestry. It contains a vault below, with a strong arched roof, now converted into a prison; and the upper part of it, lately repaired, is the council chamber of the borough. St Boniface is said to have been an Italian priest, who settled here in the end of the seventh century. The episcopal see was founded by David the First, King of Scotland; but the period is unknown at which the cathedral was built. The seal of the old cathedral, however, is preserved, and used as the seal of the borough. It has this inscription in Saxon characters: Fairntosh.

Scapituli Scor. Petri et Bonifacii de Rosmarkia.

St Peter stands on it with his keys, and Boniface with his crook.

The small village of Fairntosh only deserves notice on account of a singular privilege which its proprietor, Forbes of Culloden, long enjoyed. At the time of the revolution, in 1688, Mr Forbes of Culloden was a zealous whig, in consequence of which his estates were laid waste, particularly the barony of Fairntosh, on which extensive distilleries belonging to him were destroyed. As a compensation, the parliament of Scotland granted to him, in 1690, freedom from excise for these lands, on condition that he should make an annual payment of 400 merks Scots. The proprietors of this estate continued extremely loyal. The son of the grantee of this privilege, in 1715, raised in arms all the men upon his estate for the support of the Hanoverian succession; and the succeeding proprietor, in 1745, being then Lord President of the Court of Session, contributed greatly to prevent the Fairntosh.

Fairntosh. extension of the rebellion, and prevailed with some of the most powerful chieftains to remain quiet. The privilege was, in 1786, resumed by government, and the sum of L.20,000 was granted as a compensation to the proprietor. Before that period Fairntosh whisky was much relished in Scotland; it had a strong flavour of the smoke of the peat with which the malt of which it was made was dried; but this was considered as one of the marks of its being genuine.

Ulla Pool. We have already mentioned the village of Ulla Pool, situated on the west coast of Ross-shire, on the arm of the sea called Loch Broom. It is one of the fishing stations belonging to the British Society. It was begun to be built in 1788, and has been gradually increasing from that time. In 1792 there were seventy-two houses, of which thirty-five were slated, and the remainder covered with heath and thatch. This place is most advantageously situated for fishing or trade, having a good harbour on one of the best fishing lochs on the west coast. The roadstead is safe and commodious for almost any number of vessels; and a good quay has been lately built, where they can either load or unload with the greatest ease; but little business is done in it; and the inhabitants chiefly occupy themselves with the small spot of ground attached to each of their houses.

Hebrides. The island of Lewis, one of the Hebrides or Western Isles of Scotland, is attached to Ross-shire. As these Western Isles do not, like Orkney and Shetland, form a separate county, but form a part of the counties of Ross, Inverness, or Argyle, excepting that a part of the most southern of them constitutes the small shire of Bute, to avoid repetition, we shall here make some general remarks concerning them. "The Western Islands (says Buchannan in his History of Scotland) lie between Scot-

land and Ireland, on the west of Scotland, in the Deuca- Hebrides.
ledonian Sea, and reach almost to the Isles of Orkney or Orcades. They who have written of Scottish history, either now or in the age before us, call them *Hebrides*; a new name, of which there is not any sign or any original in ancient writers; for in that tract of the ocean in which they lie some authors place the Ebudæ, the Amodæ, or Emodæ; but with such inconsistence among themselves, that they scarce ever agree as to their number, situation, or names. Strabo, the most ancient, may be the better excused, because he followed uncertain report; this part of the world being very little known in his time. Pomponius Mela reckons the Emodæ to be seven. Martialis Capella makes the Amodæ as many. Ptolemy and Solinus make the number of the Ebudæ five. Pliny numbers the Amodæ seven, and the Ebudæ thirty. I, for my part (says Buchanan) think fit to retain the name most used by the ancients, and therefore I call all the Western Isles by the general name of Ebudæ." These islands were never accurately known or described till the beginning of of the sixteenth century, when a description of them was published by Donald Monro, high dean of the Isles, termed by Buchannan "a pious and diligent person, who travelled himself over all the islands, and viewed them carefully." They are about three hundred in number. Their ancient history is involved in great obscurity; and many fabulous stories are told by Boethius and Buchannan concerning the ancient inhabitants of the Ebudæ. They appear to have been under their own princes, and subject to the Scottish monarchs, until the eighth century, about the time when the Pictish kingdom was utterly destroyed by Kenneth the Second. At this period the seat of the Scottish monarchy was removed from Campbeltown and Dunstaffnage to the

Hebrides. eastern coast; and this remote and deserted corner soon became a prey to foreign invaders. The Danes and Norwegians, who since the beginning of the eighth century had made frequent descents on these islands, now got firm possession of the greater part of them. Nor were the invaders satisfied with this, but in a short time made frequent inroads into the heart of the country, so as to put it out of the sovereign's power to command the western frontier of the Scottish kingdom. Kintyre, Airshire, Lorn, Knapdale, and part of Galloway, fell under the dominion of the Norwegians, and afforded haunts for pirates and men of desperate fortunes, who infested the coasts of England and the neighbouring parts. At length Harold Harfager, King of Denmark and Norway, about the end of the ninth century, made the expedition to the Scottish isles, which we mentioned when treating of Orkney, and appointed a viceroy or governor, considering these islands as forming a part of his kingdom. One of the Danish viceroys, however, threw off his dependence on the mother-country, and declared himself King of the Isles, and fixed his seat of government in the Isle of Man, where he and his successors, for several generations, were sometimes independent, and at other times tributary, according to the vicissitudes of their affairs. With one of these kings or viceroys, Somerled, a powerful chieftain of Kintyre, formed a matrimonial alliance, about the beginning of the twelfth century; and some time after, in 1158, availing himself of the troubles of that period, set up as an independent prince, and separated the Western Isles and Kintyre from the crown or viceroyalty of Man. After this, by conquest or treaty, he made himself master of a great part of Argyleshire. Not yet satisfied with the extent of his possessions, and elated with his former success, he formed the design of subjecting all Scotland to his power. Accordingly, in

1164, he made a descent on the Clyde with a fleet of 120 sail, and fought with the army of Malcolm the Fourth near Renfrew; but he there fell, with a great number of his followers, a sacrifice to his ambition. The effects of this disaster were long severely felt by his family; who, instead of attempting new conquests, were hardly able to preserve the territories of their father. Accordingly, at different periods, we find the kings of Norway, of Scotland, and of England, laying claim to the sovereignty of the isles, and pretending to dispose of them at their pleasure; although the descendants of Somerled still kept possession, exercised the power, and often assumed the title of kings: But the Norwegian monarchs not only had the greatest authority in this district, but their authority appeared to be well founded; for, in 1093, the sovereignty of the isles had been formally ceded to Magnus (surnamed the *Barefooted*) King of Norway, by Donald Bane King of Scotland, brother to Malcolm the Third, as the bribe to assist him in usurping the Scottish crown. In the beginning of the thirteenth century, the Somerled or M'Donald family, as they were then called, were tributary to Norway until 1263, when, losing the battle of Largs, the Danish power in Scotland was greatly weakened; and the successor of Hacho finally ceded the isles to the crown of Scotland for the annual tribute of 100 merks. In 1335 the descendants of Somerled were again independent; and Donald, the ancestor of the M'Donald family, was in the possession of the sovereignty of the isles; and having acquired the Earldom of Ross by marrying the daughter of Alexander Lesslie Earl of Ross, became the most powerful subject of Scotland. Hebrides.

The lordship of the isles continued in the possession of the family of M'Donald for many years; but at last, in proportion as the kings of Scotland were enabled to consolidate their power, they made considerable efforts

Hebrides. to subdue these unruly chieftains. James the Fourth and Fifth made great exertions for this purpose. James the Fourth held a parliament at Kintyre in 1493, where he emancipated a part of the vassals of M'Donald upon the mainland, and gave them charters from the crown; and James the Fifth made a voyage to the isles to repress the power of the M'Donalds; but on account of the frequent minorities that occurred in the succession to the Scottish crown, and the consequent weakness of government, no better expedient was found, for some time, than that of granting portions of the territory of the M'Donalds to neighbouring chieftains, who were thus incited to make war upon them. The Campbells, in particular, that is, the family of Argyle, conquered from them Kintyre and other territories: But at last, the aggrandisement of the Scottish monarchs, by succeeding to the crowns of England and Ireland, sunk these haughty Lords of the Isles into British subjects; and their family is represented by Lord M'Donald. They long retained that pride of spirit which had resulted from their independence. One of them happening to be in Ireland, was invited to an entertainment given by the Lord Lieutenant. He chanced to be among the last in coming in, and sat himself down at the foot of the table near the door. The Lord Lieutenant asked him to sit beside him. M'Donald, who spoke no English, asked "What says the *carle?*" "He bids you move to the head of the table." "Tell the *carle*, that wherever M'Donald sits, *that* is the head of the table." The opinion conceived of these lords in their own country is emphatically expressed in the short epitaph discovered lately on one of their tombs in Icolmkill: "*Macdonnill fato hic;*" as much as to say, *fate* alone could lay M'Donald there. The M'Donalds were much celebrated for their hospitality, and no less

for their generosity. A night's lodging, or a single meal, furnished to M'Donald, was often rewarded with a farm. Many families in the islands hold their property in consequence of grants from these lords, who conveyed them in charters, extremely short, but abundantly strong. This will appear from the following specimen, though divested of the spirit and rhyme of the original: "I Donald, chief of the M'Donalds, give here, in my castle, a right to M'Kay to Kilmahumag, from this day till to-morrow, and so on for ever." The inhabitants of the Western Isles observe the same customs, wear the same dress, speak the same language, and are in every respect similar to the Highlanders, and, indeed, properly belong to the Highland division of Scotland. Lewis.

The Island of Lewis, which belongs to Ross-shire, is the most northern, and one of the largest of the Hebrides. It is connected with the Island of Harris by a narrow isthmus, which at low water is left entirely dry, and even at high water is not completely covered. Harris belongs to Inverness-shire. Lewis is in its form irregular, but somewhat triangular; the length of the sides being, from the point of Ness to Malista, forty miles; from Malista to Wallums twenty-one miles; from Wallums again to the point of Ness thirty-six miles. The aspect of the country in this island is, in the interior parts, boggy and mountainous; upon the shore flat, intersected by various arms of the sea, and destitute of wood, except only a few birches and hazles, with heath and some kindred shrubs. The soil is, in the interior country, a black peat earth, or a light gravel; on the shore, a sand not unsusceptible of culture and fertilization. The peat earth has probably been formed, in a good measure, by the decay of those woods with which this island is said to have been once extensively covered. Springs, lakes, and rivu- Lewis.

Lewis. lets, scattered through the island, furnish in all parts abundance of fresh water. As to the climate, the spring is uncommonly cold and backward, summer warm, autumn accompanied with profuse rains, winter without long and severe frosts, or very weighty falls of snow, but with constant winds, and these stormy and sharply cold. Among its wild animals this isle still has deer or roes. Prodigious numbers of wild fowls of many different species frequent the shores, the lakes, and the cliffs of the mountains; among others, the eider goose, of which the down is so precious. Immense shoals of fishes, of an innumerable diversity of species, haunt the coasts; herrings, cod, ling, haddocks, whitings, skate, turbot, mackerel, &c.

Lochs. The island is greatly intersected by arms of the sea, called lochs, which run to a considerable distance inland, both from the eastern and western sides. One of the chief of these is Loch Roag, on the west, which is two leagues across at the entry, and runs up, in a south-east direction, about twelve miles through the island. This loch is covered with islands, several of them inhabited; and one of them is about eight miles long; its name is Large Bernera. The whole of this curious loch abounds with safe places of anchorage sufficient to hold the whole British navy; nay, we may say the navy of Europe. About 140 tons of kelp, of a superior quality, are annually made in Loch Roag. On the east coast Loch Seaforth runs into the country to a great distance; but Loch Keose and Loch Leurbust advance also to a great distance inland from the east; but Loch Stornaway is most important, on account of the town or village which stands upon it, and which is the capital of the island. On the coast, in the parish of Stornaway, is a large cave, into which the sea enters at high water, and which is only accessible from the sea. When it was first noticed, a great number of seals were

killed on it annually, and the practice is still continued; but now seldom more than seven or twelve are destroyed. The method of killing is this: A number of people assemble about low water, and carry a boat into the cave as far as she can proceed; they take from the boat a pot, which they have filled with live coal, and with which they light their torches; they then fall upon the poor seals without mercy with clubs shod with iron. The entry of the cave is very steep and narrow on its sides, and does not admit more than the breadth of a six-oared boat. After going in a great way the light of day becomes somewhat obscured, and they then meet with a large pillar, which divides the cave at this place into two large openings or arches; by one of which they enter and walk a long way under, where they meet with large tumbling round stones surrounded in part by water. As they advance farther in, they come to a fine pleasant beach, where they meet with the seals. Further in still there is a small chamber, which by the light of the torches appears remarkably white, its roof being all covered with white stalactites, which are seen hanging from the roof like large isicles. Some of them put on the figure of hieroglyphics, and each of them seems perforated, from the base to the point, with a small tube. The cave within is very high, and the sound is very loud when the voice is exalted, but it has no particular echo. From the outermost entry to the innermost part of it is no less than one eighth of an English mile. Lewis.

The island of Lewis is divided into four parishes; viz. Barvas, Lochs, Stornaway, and Uig. It has various small islets attached to it. The island of Rona is reckoned the farthest to the north-west of any land in Europe. It is situated in the Northern Ocean, about sixteen leagues distant from Corassie Point, or the Butt of Lewis. It belongs Rona.

Lewis. to the parish of Barvas. It is reckoned a mile in length and half a mile in breadth. There is a temple in it dedicated to St Ronan. It is rented by one of the Ness tacksmen at L.4 Sterling *per annum*, who regularly, every season, sends a large open boat, and brings from it some corn, butter, cheese, a few sheep, and sometimes a cow, besides some wild fowl and feathers. There were once five families residing upon it, but now only one, who are employed by the tacksman as servants.

Sulisker. The rock Sulisker lies four leagues to the east of Rona; it is a quarter of a mile in circumference, and abounds with a great variety of sea-fowl. The boat which goes to Rona generally touches there for fowls and feathers. There is in Ness a most venturous set of people, who for a few years back, at the hazard of their lives, went there in an open six-oared boat, without even the aid of a compass. There is no place in it where they can draw up their boat; some of them continue in it, taking shelter under the lee-side of the rock, whilst the rest are busy in taking the birds, which are so tame that they knock them down with their sticks. Their feathers sell at Stornaway at from nine to ten shillings *per* stone.

In the parish of Uig, on the west coast, Gallan Head, a remarkable promontory, lies at the south-west entry to Loch Reag. The Flannan Isles lie in a north-west direction from Gallan Head, about twelve or fifteen miles in the ocean. They are not inhabited, and are famous for fattening sheep, each of which has every season two lambs at a time. Sheep brought from these isles do not live for any time on the island of Lewis. The people of the farms to which the islands are connected go there once a-year, to fleece their sheep and to kill sea-fowls, both for food and on account of their feathers. In the islands there is to be found, in the summer season, a

Flannan Isles.

migratory bird, called by Martin *colk*, by others *eider duck*, famous for its elastic down, which it plucks off its own breast, and with which it lines its nest. These islands are seven in number, and seem to be the same which Buchannan calls *Insulæ Sacræ*. Lewis.

In the channel between Lewis and Sky, a third of the way nearer the former than the latter, are three islands, named Shaint or Holy Islands, well known to mariners. One of them, in particular, seems to have been dedicated to the Virgin Mary; it is named Mosir, or Mary's Island. In it are the remains of a Popish chapel. Black cattle are pastured on them all; and they are famous for fattening sheep; but particularly some small rocks in their neighbourhood, which have grass on their tops. There is one family residing on the largest of the islands, for the purpose of attending the cattle. Shaint isles.

The inhabitants of the island of Lewis are scattered, for the most part, in single families, or clusters of two or three families, around the coast, or through the interior parts of the island. Some large tracts are without inhabitants, while upon others the population is more closely assembled together. On the east side of the isle is the town or village of Stornaway, which, from a small origin, has of late, by the exertions of Lord Seaforth, arrived at a considerable size and extent. The harbour of Stornaway is excellent, and well frequented; and the principal source of employment is the prosecution of the white and herring fisheries in the bays; and here about thirty-five or forty vessels are annually fitted out. It is a port of the custom-house, and has a post-office and a regular packet, which sails every week with the mail and passengers. The houses in the town are generally well built; and besides a neat and commodious custom-house, there is a town-house, an assembly-room, and elegant church, and Stornaway.

Stornaway. two commodious school-houses. In the Bay of Stornaway ships of any burden have sufficient water, good ground, and no heavy sea can ever come into it. The people of the town seldom have men-servants engaged for the year; and it is a curious circumstance that, time out of remembrance, their maid-servants were in the habit of drinking every morning a wine-glass full of whisky, which their mistress gave them. This barbarous custom became so well established by length of time, that if the practice of it should happen to be neglected or forgotten in a family, even once, discontent and idleness throughout the day, on the part of the maid or maids, would be the sure consequence. After the stoppage of the distilleries took place during the late years of scarcity, the people of the town found it necessary to unite in the resolution of abolishing the practice, by with-holding the dear cordial from their female domestics, but not without the precaution of making a compensation to them in money for their grievous loss; and it is said that even this was not satisfactory, and that in some families the dram was still given privately, to preserve peace and good order.

Morning dram.

In this island the women carry on as much, at least, of the labours of agriculture as the men; they carry the manure in baskets on their backs; they pulverize the ground, after it is sown, with heavy hand-rakes (harrows being seldom used), and labour hard at digging the ground, both with crooked and straight spades. It must be added, that the increasing trade and population of the town of Stornaway, with the liberal and judicious views of improvement which are pursued by Lord Seaforth, the proprietor of the island, if they have not the effect of turning the industry of the men of Lewis too exclusively into the directions of fishing and making of kelp, are likely to rouse agricultural industry by new and more powerful stimuli,

to furnish it with less awkward instruments, to enlighten all its processes, and to give a new animation to its labours. Stornaway.

There are scarcely any regular roads in Lewis. The moor across the island, from Stornaway to Uig, is so extensive and soft, that it would require the labour of many ages to open a road through it. Some years ago, a young girl, in attempting to go from one part of the country to another, lost her way in the pathless moor and could not find it. When her strength failed she dropped down; and notwithstanding the industry of the common people in quest of her, she was not found until the eighteenth day after her departure from home. To the astonishment of all who heard her story, life was found remaining; and by the assiduity of the surgeon she was restored to good health and strength.

The common people of this island marry very early; and when death separates them, the surviving party, whether male or female, usually finds it convenient to engage a second or third time in that state. Some of them remain a few weeks, and some only a few days, in widowhood; so that grief for the loss of a husband or wife is an affliction little known among the lower class of people here. A woman in this country, whose husband shot himself accidentally by an unguarded management of a firelock, settled her contract of marriage, in the way she thought fit, before the body of her late husband was interred, and was married the next day after she performed that last duty to the deceased.

Though the air is moist, it appears to be sufficiently salu- Diseases.
brious to the inhabitants. The most prevailing distemper, however, is rheumatism, occasioned by cold and dampness. Epilepsy occurs frequently among infants from the fifth to the eighth day after their birth. The surgeon in the western part of the island declares that this distemper

Antiquities. proved fatal in every case that came within the comprehension of his knowledge, two only excepted, in which the surgeon attended. One of the children which escaped suffered so much from the violent exertions of the muscles during the fits, that its arms and legs are distorted, and the whole frame is in a debilitated state, and likely to continue so. It is worthy of remark, that the infants of such parents as come to this island from the neighbouring continent or islands, or from any part of Britain, are not troubled with this affliction until such parents reside for many years in this country; and indeed few of them are at all troubled with it. This distemper prevails over all the island.

In the parish of Uig, it is believed, there is still alive a woman who has four distinct breasts or *mammæ*. She has had several stout healthy children, and suckled each of them, and likewise one of the minister's children. She has nipples, and had milk in each of the four breasts. The two upper are seated immediately under the armpits; and by being distended with milk were very troublesome to her for the first two or three months after her delivery.

Antiquities. To return from this island in particular to the consideration of the county at large, it may be remarked, that Ross-shire contains a considerable number of remains of antiquity which are not unworthy of notice. They consist chiefly of Druidical temples, and Pictish, or, as they are often called, Danish forts or buildings, called Duns, and of the castles of the ancient chieftains.

Druidical circle. On the eastern part of the county, in the parish of Kiltearn, about half a mile westward of the house of Clyne, and a quarter of a mile north of the post-road, is a Druidical temple. It consists of a single row of twelve large stones, placed upright, and so disposed as to form two ovals, which are joined to each other. The area of these

ovals are equal; they are thirteen feet from east to west, and ten feet in the middle from south to north. At the west end of one of them is a stone, which rises eight feet above the surface of the earth; the other stones are from four to six feet long. There is also in the middle of this oval a flat stone, which was probably the altar; it seems to have stood formerly at the east end, but has been thrown down by some accident. Distant about three paces from the eastern oval is a circular hollow, said to have been a well of a considerable depth, but it is now filled up; its diameter at top is eight feet. These ovals are situated on the top of an eminence, round which are marked out three concentric circles; one at the bottom, another twenty-eight paces above the former, and the third twelve paces higher, immediately surrounding the ovals. The circumferenee of the first is eighty, of the second fifty, and of the third or highest circle thirty-five paces. About eight hundred paces to the west of the above temple is a circular cairn, in diameter about thirty paces, containing in the centre a grave, three feet six inches long, eighteen inches broad, and fourteen inches deep, neatly lined with four flat stones, and covered by another. On many of the neighbouring hills cairns are found. Antiquities.

In the parish of Nigg, on the same coast, near Shandwick, stands a large obelisk; on the one side of which are cut the figures of different animals; on the other a cross, handsomely executed. The former is supposed to be a much older work than the latter; and the tradition is, that the stone was erected in memory of a shipwreck suffered opposite to that place by the Danes when they were wont to infest the northern coast; in which shipwreck three sons of the King of Denmark are said to have perished, and to have been buried where the obelisk stands. The rock opposite to Shandwick, where the shipwreck happened, is, from that event, known to seafaring people by Obelisk.

Antiquities. the name of the *King's Sons*. That rock lies not half a mile distant from the shore, and there is a great depth of water on each side of it. It stretches two or three miles in almost a straight line from east to west, and is not to be seen at high water; and this, a few years ago, occasioned the loss of a ship belonging to the Orkneys, bound for Cromarty, which, in a fair evening, standing in too near the shore, struck upon the rock, and went down immediately, the crew having only time to save themselves by the boat. The top of the mast was seen for several weeks above the water. There stood another obelisk in the churchyard of Nigg, said also to have been erected there by the Danes. The sculpture upon it is still entire, and is much the same with that of the other monuments left by that people, consisting of figures of animals, and of weapons used either in war or hunting. It stood till about the year 1725, when it was thrown down by a remarkable storm of wind, which at the same time threw down the belfry, and broke the bell of the church.

Dunskeath. Where that range of rocks which overhang the Moray Frith terminates, at a place called Dunskeath, on a small moat situated above the sea, once stood a fort, of which mention is made by Sir David Dalrymple in his History of Scotland (Vol. I. p. 121.), built as far back as the year 1179, by William, surnamed the Lion, King of Scotland. The ditch around the castle, and the entrance to it, may still be observed; but nothing of the wall, or of the stones of which it was built, remains. It was built with a view to suppress disorders in the country, and to disperse and destroy robbers and other persons who came to plunder, as may be collected from its name, Dunscath, or Dunsca, which is compounded of two Gaelic words, *dun*, a "fort or castle," and *scath*, "destruction

or dispersion." The farm adjoining to it is still called Castle Craig. Antiquities.

In the parish of Kincardine is Craigchenichan, where the gallant Marquis of Montrose fought his last battle, and was defeated by Colonel Strachan. He swam the Kyle, and lay some time concealed in Assint; but being discovered and apprehended, he was sent prisoner to Inverness. The ground where the battle was fought took its present name from the event of that memorable day; it may be translated the *Rock of Lamentation*. Its ancient name is still known, though rarely used.

In the same parish, near to the church, there is an alley, walled in, and terminating in a large semicircle, appropriated to that ancient military exercise and discipline known by the name of *weapon-shawing*. In the church-yard there is nothing remarkable but a stone, about five feet in length, and divided into two cells; the ends and sides are full of figures and characters. An imperial crown, and a man on horseback, in the act of darting a lance, are still very visible. It appears to be the half of a stone-coffin; and tradition says that the remains of a prince of Loellin, who died of his wounds in the neighbourhood, were deposited in it. In the same neighbourhood, also, are several Druidical circles, and also some of the round buildings which were formerly mentioned under the denomination of Picts houses. In this parish lived the remarkable fasting woman mentioned in Pennant's Tour, and of whom an account is given in the Philosophical Transactions (Vol. LXVII. Part I.) Her name was Janet M'Leod. She continued healthy till she was fifteen years of age, when she had a pretty severe epileptic fit; after this she had an interval of health for four years, and then another epileptic fit, which continued a whole day and a night. A few days afterwards she was seized with a fever, which Fasting woman.

Fasting Woman.

continued with violence for several weeks, and from which she did not perfectly recover for some months. At this time she lost the use of her eye-lids, so that she was under the necessity of keeping them open with the fingers of one hand whenever she wanted to look about her. In other respects she continued in pretty good health; only she had never any appearance of menses, but periodically spit up blood in pretty large quantities, and at the same time it flowed from the nose. This discharge continued several years, but at last it ceased, and soon after she had a third epileptic fit, and after that a fever, from which she recovered very slowly. Six weeks after the crisis she stole out of the house unknown to her parents, who were busied in their harvest-work, and bound the sheaves of a ridge before she was observed. In the evening she took to her bed, complaining much of her heart (most probably her stomach, according to the phraseology of that country) and her head. From that time she never rose for five years, but was occasionally lifted out of bed. She seldom spoke a word, and took so little food that it seemed scarce sufficient to support a sucking infant. Even this small quantity was taken by compulsion; and at last, about Whitsunday 1763, she totally refused every kind of food or drink. Her jaws now became so fast locked that it was with the greatest difficulty her father was able to open her teeth a little, in order to admit a small quantity of gruel or whey; but of this so much generally run out at the corners of her mouth that they could not be sensible any had been swallowed. About this time they got some water from a noted medicinal spring at Braemar, some of which they attempted to make her swallow, but without effect. They continued their trials, however, for three mornings, rubbing her throat with the water which run out at the corners of her mouth. On the third morning,

during the operation, she cried out, "Give me more water," and swallowed with ease all that remained in the bottle. She spoke no more intelligibly for a year; though she continued to mutter some words, which her parents only understood, for fourteen days. She continued to reject all kinds of food and drink till July 1765. At this time her sister thought that, by some signs she made, she wanted her jaws opened; and this being done, not without violence, she called intelligibly for a drink, and drank with ease about an English pint of water. Her father asked her, "Why she would not make some signs when she wanted a drink?" to which she answered, "Why should she when she had no desire?" It was now supposed that she had regained the faculty of speech, and her jaws were kept open for about three weeks by means of a wedge; but in four or five days she became totally silent, and the wedge was afterwards removed, because it made her lips sore. She still, however, continued sensible; and when her eyelids were opened knew every body, as could be guessed from the signs she made. By continuing their attempts to force open her jaws, two of the under fore teeth were driven out; and of this opening her parents endeavoured to avail themselves, by putting some thin nourishing drink into her mouth, but without effect, as it always returned by the corners. Sometimes they thought of thrusting a little dough of oat-meal through this gap of the teeth, which she would retain a few seconds, and then return with something like a straining to vomit, without one particle going down. Nor was the family sensible of any thing like swallowing for four years, excepting the small draught of Braemar water, and the English pint of common water. For the last three years she had not any evacuation by stool or urine, except that, once or twice a week, she passed a few drops of urine; about as much, to

Fasting Woman.

Fasting Woman

use the expression of her parents, as would wet the surface of a halfpenny. In this situation she was visited by Dr M'Kenzie, who communicated the account of her case to the Royal Society. He found her not at all emaciated; her knees were bent, and the hamstrings tight, so that her heels almost touched her buttocks. She slept much, and was very quiet; but when awake, kept a constant whimpering like a new-born weakly infant. She never could remain a moment on her back, but always fell to one side or another, and her chin was clapped close to her breast; nor could it by any force be moved backwards. The Doctor paid her his first visit in the month of October, and five years afterwards, viz. in October 1772, was induced to pay her a second visit, by hearing that she was recovering, and had begun to eat and drink. The account given him was most extraordinary. Her parents, one day returning from their country labours (having left their daughter fixed to her bed as usual), were greatly surprised to see her sitting upon her hams, on the side of the house opposite to her bed-place, spinning with her mother's distaff. All the food she took at that time was only to crumble a little oat or barley cake in the palm of her hand, as if to feed a chicken. She put little crumbs of this into the gap of her teeth, rolled them about for some time in her mouth, and then sucked out of the palm of her hand a little water, whey, or milk; and this only once or twice a-day, and even that by compulsion. She never attempted to speak; her jaws were fast locked, and her eyes shut. On opening her eye-lids the balls were found to be turned up under the edge of the *os frontis*, her countenance was ghastly, her complexion pale, and her whole person emaciated. She seemed sensible, and tractable in every thing except in taking food. This she did with the utmost reluctance, and even cried before she yielded. The

great change of her looks Dr M'Kenzie attributed to her spinning flax on the distaff, which exhausted too much of the saliva, and therefore he recommended to her parents to confine her totally to the spinning of wool. In 1775 she was visited again, and found to be greatly improved in her looks as well as strength. Her food was also considerably increased in quantity, though even then she did not take more than would be sufficient to sustain an infant of two years of age. This woman continued to live to an advanced period of life. She was alive in 1793, above sixty years of age, taking no nourishment, excepting a little of the thinnest gruel, which she received through the aperture which had been made by breaking two of her fore teeth for the purpose of feeding her. Antiquities.

In the parish of Avoch the foundations still remain of a large old castle or fortalice, on the top of a little hill near Castletown Point, about 200 feet above the level of the sea. This mount is called by some Ormondy Hill; and tradition gives the name of Douglas Castle to the ruin. It covers an oblong space, about 350 feet long and 160 feet broad, divided into a good many apartments, which had been strongly built of coarse red quarry-stone and lime, with a fosse on one side, and the appearance of bastions towards another. From its peculiar situation, and apparent strength of the works, it may have been easily defended before the invention of artillery. Old castle.

In all parts of the east of Ross-shire, tradition points out abundance of spots where bloody battles were fought, for the purpose of resisting Norwegian or Danish invasions, or plundering incursions, or in which battles were fought by rival and hostile clans. Numbers of cairns point out the spots where the ashes of the dead have been deposited; though concerning most of them tradition is silent. In the parish of Eddertoun, however, on a large Battles, &c.

Antiquities. plain to the west of the church, where evident marks of an encampment appear, tradition says that a battle was fought against the Danes. Near to this there is a large circle of earth, flat on the top, and raised about two feet above the level of the ground around it. In the centre of this circle there is a large obelisk above ten feet above the ground. No tool seems to have been employed in forming it, though there are some rude figures still discernible; the largest of a triangular form, with small circles suspended from it. Here a Danish prince is said to be interred.

Abbey of Lochlin. In the parish of Fearn are several Druidical temples. The most remarkable monuments of antiquity, of a later date, are the Abbey and the Castle of Lochlin. The abbey is said to have been first built of mud, and afterwards renewed in a more durable form. The principal part of it was ninety-nine feet in length within walls, twenty-five feet and a half in breadth, and the walls twenty-four feet high above the ground. The abbey was not only a place of worship before the reformation, but ever since, until October 1742, when, on a sudden, in time of public worship, the roof fell in. There were thirty-six persons killed instantly by what fell in of the roof and slates on that melancholy occasion. Farquhar, first Earl of Ross, was buried in the abbey; and there is adjoining to it an area used as a burying place for all persons of any importance in the north of the name of Ross. The Castle

And Castle. of Lochlin, in the north-east corner of the parish, is another remarkable building. It is said to be 500 years old. It stands upon an eminence about a mile north-east of the Loch of Eye, and about six miles east from Tain, and is indeed one of the most conspicuous objects in this country. It was certainly built as a place of security against sudden incursions in the days of violence. Its shape

resembles two figures nearly square, joined together by Antiquities.
the corners; in which junction there is a staircase to the top: the lesser one, which looks towards the west, being about twenty, and the greater, which looks towards the east, about thirty-eight feet square. The castle is sixty feet high. It is fortified with three large turrets; of which one stands upon the lesser square, and two upon the greater. These turrets are capable, each of them, of holding three or more men with ease; and in each of them are five small round holes, of about four inches diameter, with three larger above them of a quadrangular form. The latter, it is imagined, were intended for the sentries or watchmen to see through, and the others for shooting of arrows. The outer door of the kitchen was made of strong bars of iron, as thick as an ordinary man's leg, and the windows were closed with small grates or twisted stentions of iron; so that it may be readily supposed that it was almost impregnable at the period in which it was erected.

There is another very ancient castle, that of Cadboll, Cadboll.
equally old, if not older than either the Abbey or the the Castle of Loohlin. Few remains of it now exist, excepting a few vaults; but it deserves notice on account of a singular tradition concerning it, which receives full credit from the vulgar: viz. That though this castle was inhabited for ages, yet no person ever died in it. It appears, however, that the magical quality of the castle, which did not suffer death to enter its walls, was no proof against disease, and did not protect its inhabitants against the stil more grievous evils which attend upon sickness and extreme old age. Hence many of the inhabitants of this castle requested to be carried out of it, because they had become weary of life; particularly a Lady May, who resided here about a century ago, and who being long sick,

Antiquities. and longing for death, requested to be carried out of her castle. Her importunity at last prevailed, and, according to the tradition, she expired immediately after her removal.

Craighouse. In the united parish of Kirkmichael and Cullicadden, the Castle of Craighouse has the appearance of being extremely ancient. It stands on the shore of Cullicaddden, about a mile and a half westward of the old church. It is five stories high, built with run lime on a rock perpendicular towards the sea, which washes it at flood-tide; and being surrounded on the land-side by a ditch and high wall, it evidently appears to have been a place of considerable strength. All the apartments of the one-half of it which is most entire are formed by stone arches; but the floors of the other half, which is evidently more modern, have been laid on wooden joists; part of which are still to be seen on the walls. About 200 years ago, the castle, with the lands adjoining, belonged to the Williamsons of Craighouse; the representative of which family is a Count Williamson in Germany. The Castle and lands of Craighouse afterwards became the property and occasional residence of the Bishops of Ross, and are now a part of the estate of Newhall.

In this neighbourhood are a greater number of ancient encampments than in any other parish in the north. They are all near the coast. There are likewise many tumuli or cairns. The largest are formed of stones of various dimensions, and the lesser of earth and stones thrown promiscuously together. In removing the stones of some of these cairns, stone coffins were found, formed by four large and two small slabs of unhewn freestone, containing ashes and blades of offensive weapons almost consumed by rust.

In the parish of Killernan are two ancient structures,

Killcoy and Redcastle, of considerable strength; the last of which was in former times of some importance. Red-castle probably received its name from the colour of the stones of which it is built. It was annexed to the crown with the lordship of Ross *anno* 1455; had the rights of a borough of barony, with those of a free port, holding weekly markets, levying tolls and anchorage dues, together with all other baronial privileges not expressly abrogated by the jurisdiction act 1748. At the beginning of the century before last, Redcastle was a place of considerable strength. In 1646, soon after Montrose was forced, or rather permitted, by Middleton, to raise the siege of Inverness, Rory M'Kenzie of Redcastle joined him, together with his chieftain and clan, in that remonstrance against the procedure of the covenanters, for which Seaforth was soon thereafter excommunicated. In 1649, the M'Kenzies, exasperated at the king's death, and vowing revenge, projected an expedition to the south. Joining a party of Sutherlands, they, in number about 1500, crossed Kessock and Beaulie on Sunday the 3d May. Coming to Inverness in time of divine service, the ringing of bells was soon succeeded by the noise of drums and bagpipes. The alarmed inhabitants, hastily summoned from church, were obliged to provide the best entertainment. Their guests, however, were so delicately nice that it was found necessary to bribe their teeth into exercise, by laying on every man's cover what they called *argoid cagindh*, "chewing money." From Inverness they marched through Moray; and crossing the Spey, encamped near Balveny Castle, the property of the Marquis of Huntly. But amidst the revelry which resulted from considerable plunder and unsuspecting security, they were suddenly attacked by Colonels Strachan and Kerr, defeated, and almost all made prisoners. Strachan, im-

Antiquities. Redcastle.

Antiquities. proving his victory, sent a party to besiege Redcastle, which was garrisoned, in the proprietor's absence, by his sons and dependants. A lieutenant M'Bean was sent to summon it to surrender; but he was fired at from the walls and killed. This so enraged the assailants, that they stormed, took, and burned it to the ground.

Nor is the western district of the county destitute of the remains of antiquity. In particular, many natural caves are found, which have evidently been rendered more commodious by art, and may therefore be considered, in some degree, as works of former times. They seem to have been the habitations of the first plundering adventurers who came into the country. The Gaelic for *cave* is *uadh*, and the only vocable in that copious language for *giant* is *uadher*; that is, the inhabitant of a cave. Fear magnifies objects. These savages, in all our old fables and poems, are mentioned as men of mighty stature, and represented as cannibals, who devoured all sorts of flesh raw. In the district of Applecross are the remains of a subterraneous house, of which there is still a part entire. It was of considerable length, four feet wide and four feet deep, regularly faced with stone, and covered with flags, which were overlaid with turf, so as to be on a level with the surrounding ground. The passage was at one of the ends, which, if covered with a turf or bundle of heather, would elude all search. From the construction of these houses, it is more likely that they were the receptacles of plunder, and the fences of concealed property, than the habitations of men. Near this house are the ruins of a Danish Dun. All of the same description along the coast are here said to have served for so many centinels to the Western Isles (then under the dominion of Denmark), who, by the signal of a torch, could give an early information to their nearer insular

Cave.

friends of any approaching danger, which being, in like manner, communicated from one Dun to another, the alarm would in a moment become general. Antiquities.

There are trunks of trees found at a considerable depth under ground, in hills and meadows, where there is now no vestige of any kind of wood remaining. Many of them have visibly suffered by fire, which the traditional history of the country reports to have been occasioned by the Danes burning the forests. Close by the parish church of Applecross are the remains of an old religious house, where the standards and soles of crucifixes are still to be seen. It was richly endowed with landed property, which tradition relates to have been conveyed by the last popish missionary in the place, known by designation of the *Red Priest of Applecross*, to his daughter. Notwithstanding the pretended celibacy and chastity of the Romish clergy, there are several sirnames in the Gaelic language, which clearly prove that strict abstinence was not their favourite virtue; such as, *Mac-an-tagard*, "the priest's son;" *Mac-vriar*, "the prior's son; *Mac-ficker*, "the vicar's son;" *Mac-pherson*," "the parson's son," &c. These names exactly correspond with the English sirnames of Priestley, Prior, Parson, &c. and prove the character and practices of the primitive apostles in both the kingdoms to have been the same.

Though not properly, perhaps, a part of the antiquities of the country, yet we cannot avoid remarking, from its connection with the same subject, that in this part of the Highlands many of the old superstitions which haunted the imaginations of men in former times still obtain general belief; and the progress of knowledge has yet only, in a very small degree, undermined them. In the western parts of these North Highlands, there are none of the common calamities or distressful accidents incident to man or Superstitions.

Antiquities. beast, but hath had its particular charm or incantation. They are generally made up of a group of unconnected words, and an irregular address to the Deity, or to some one of the saints. The desire of health, and the power of superstition, reconciled many to the use of them; nor are they as yet, among the lower class, fallen into disuse. With them the belief of the second sight is general; and the power of an evil eye is commonly credited. And though the faith in witchcraft be much enfeebled, the virtue of abstracting the substance from one cow's milk and adding it to another, is rarely questioned. The ghosts of the dying, called *tasks*, are said to be heard, their cry being a repetition of the moans of the sick. Some pretend they have the sagacity to distinguish the voices of their departed friends. The corpse follows the tract led by the tasks to the place of interment; and the early or late completion of the prediction is made to depend on the period of the night at which the task is heard. Such gloomy superstitions, when they have once taken root, are never eradicated without considerable difficulty, and till a very considerable degree of intelligence has been diffused among the mass of the people. Such superstitions are indeed easily driven from the minds of those who go to reside in towns; but among those who live in scattered huts, among dismal solitudes and mountainous wastes, the mind is naturally disposed to receive and retain every melancholy impression.

Donan Castle. In the western and mountainous peninsula of Kintail are the ruins of the Castle of Donan, anciently a seat of the family of Seaforth. The Castle of Donan was built in the reign of Alexander the Third of Scotland, to resist the depredations of the Danes. It commanded a very extensive prospect, and is situated in the western extremity of the parish of Kintail. It had the full command of

Loch Duich and Loch Long, so as to secure the parish from annoyance by water. Colin Fitzgerald, from whom is descended the present Earl of Seaforth, was made constable of this castle, for the valour he displayed at the battle of Largs in 1263. Previous to Sheriffmuir, this castle was taken from the king's troops by stratagem. A neighbouring tenant having applied to the governor for some hands to cut down his corn, as he said he understood, from the face of the skies and the croaking of ravens, that a heavy storm was impending, and that nothing but a sudden separation of his crop from the ground could save his family from starvation, the governor readily yielded to these solicitations: but the soldiers, on their return, discovered the deception too late; for the Kintail men, by this time, were reaping the spoils and keeping possession of the castle. At full sea Donan is inclosed by water, and formed into an island, but at ebb is connected with the mainland. This castle was demolished in the year 1719, after the battle of Glensheal, by a ship of war. Some of the bullets are still found in mossy ground, at the distance of a mile above it, and are used by some of the oldest inhabitants as weights to sell butter and cheese. It appears that when the castle was entire, it consisted of a tower and rampart. The fragments of the former, which was built long before the rampart, measure four feet broad. The only entire and remaining part is the fountain, which is still inclosed by a wall of fifteen feet high, in an octagonal figure. This draw-well was once drained at great expence, with the prospect of finding treasure, which was found to consist only of some silver spoons and small fire-arms. The water is still sweet, and of good quality. The roof of the castle was lead. Lately an old inhabitant of the parish remembered to have seen the Kintail men under arms, dancing on the leaden roof, just as they were setting

Antiquities.

Antiquities. out for the battle of Sheriffmuir, where this resolute band were cut to pieces.

Diarmed's Fort and Tomb. In front of the manse or clergyman's house of Kintail, stands *Donan Diarmed*, or Fort of Diarmed. It is of a circular form, twenty feet high, and of the same breadth. There is no other spot on the same plain which commands so great a prospect. There is a wall on the outside, and the best harbour for shipping in all Loch Duich. Diarmed's tomb is on the north-east of the fort. The rough stones of which it is composed are regularly placed by the hand of art, and measure fifteen feet by three. His supposed descendants, the Campbells, who resort to the place, often visit and measure the tomb of the Fingalian hero.

M'Craws. The M'Craes or M'Craws, an inferior Highland tribe or clan, form the principal population of the peninsula of Kintail. They were distinguished for fidelity to their chief, M'Kenzie of Seaforth. As William Earl of Seaforth forfeited his estate in 1715, orders were given to levy the rents for the crown; but as an army was not sent to enforce this order, and as the country is naturally inaccessible by land, unless through a narrow pass, the authority of government was despised; and during all the time of the forfeiture, every effort made by bodies of troops to enter the country proved unsuccessful. The consequence was, that the rents of the estate were regularly paid, and sent abroad to the exiled chief. The M'Craes first rose into importance in the following singular manner: They were chiefly employed as herdsmen and servants by another tribe called the M'Lenans. To these last, on an occasion of danger, the standard of Seaforth, their chief, was entrusted; and the consequence was, that they almost all perished in battle. Their widows married their servants; and thus the M'Craes became a considerable clan.

In the Island of Lewis, in the parish of Uig, is a Druidical temple or circle of stones, which is uncommonly entire, and affords to the antiquarian an opportunity of examining correctly the nature of these singular works. The circle has an avenue of about 100 yards in length, bounded on each side by tall stones of great bulk. The two rows of stones, which form the avenue, point each towards the centre of the circle; so that the avenue is wide at its outer extremity, and converges as it approaches towards the circle. The avenue extends from the circle towards the south. A short row of great stones runs from each side of the circle due east and west, and another towards the north. A very huge stone occupies the centre of the circle. Several concentrical circles extend to a considerable distance. A stone of prodigious size rests on the declivity of a hill to the south of the circle, and seems to be supported by other stones. It is seen from the centre of the circle to be precisely south. The altar of sacrifice probably was either the vast stone in the centre of the circle, or the huge stone to the south of the whole. If we make the latter supposition, it may be supposed that the chief priest took his station on the great stone in the centre of the circle, and directed the sacrifice to be made precisely when the sun reached his meridian altitude; for the form in which these monuments are reared, consisting of circles, with lines of stones directed towards the four cardinal points, leaves no reason to doubt, that if they were at all intended for religious purposes, it must have been for the worship of the sun. The Roman writers, indeed, represent the Druids as offering up their worship in sacred groves; but upon this point they have undoubtedly fallen into an error; they seem rather to have chosen for this purpose spots embosomed among rugged rocks, or the boldest scenery which nature exhibits in a

Antiquities. Great Druidical temple.

Antiquities. rude country. On the other hand, it is extremely probable that the Druids had their own dwellings in more sheltered situations, or that they used the deep recesses of the woods for their more mysterious rites, or for punishing their enemies, under pretence of reclaiming the guilty. The Druidical temple in the Island of Lewis, which has been now mentioned, stands at a place called Calarnish, near Loch Roag.

At Melistar are the remains of a nunnery, called still, in the language of the country, *Teugh-nan-cailich-an-dou*, or, "the house of the old black woman." At Carlaway, in the same parish, is one of those buildings which we formerly mentioned under the name of Picts Houses, and which in the West Highlands are called *Duns* or *Downs*, and frequently considered as Danish or Norwegian forts, though undoubtedly they belong to a more ancient period. The building alluded to is reared with a double wall of dry stone. It is perhaps the most entire of any of the kind in Scotland. It is very broad at the base, and towards the top contracts in the form of a pyramid. The height of the wall is fifty feet; the fabric is perfectly circular. It stands on a solid rock, and has somewhat of the appearance of the furnace or cone of a glass-house, excepting that it widens more rapidly towards the base. In the inside it has a projection of stones, forming a circle round the wall, at such a height as to have supported a wooden floor, leaving a space for a story below. Like other works of the same sort, it is built of undressed stones found in the neighbourhood, and here they are of granite. The outer and inner walls are perfectly parallel. Large flat stones are laid horizontally, so as to connect the walls, and to form a passage round the building in an inclined spiral form, of the nature of a rude stair, which reaches to the top. The passages, however, are not entirely spi-

Dun or Pict's House.

sal, but partly horizontal, having ascents at intervals, which appear to have ultimately conducted to the summit of the building. The inside area of the building is about twenty-five feet diameter, and the walls about nine feet thick. One side of the building has been considerably destroyed, and the door does not appear. Antiquities.

In the parish of Barvas several ruins of popish chapels or churches are to be seen. Round most of them are burying grounds, which are to this day used for that purpose. A few of them can only be traced by the foundation stones; the walls of others are pretty entire. The largest and most entire is that at Corassie, in Ness, dedicated to St Mulvay. It seems to have been the principal one, and undoubtedly used as a place of worship. It is fifty feet long, twenty-four broad, and in the side-walls sixteen feet high. The people around it pay it as yet a great deal of superstitious veneration; and indeed some of them retain still a few of the popish superstitions. A little to the northward of it stood St Renan's; and close by it, to the south, stood a house, built by one of the M'Leods, once the proprietors of this island. There is still a piece of wall standing, called by them M'Leod's Gate. The stones are mostly carried away by the tenants for building their houses. Some hundred yards to the south of that is a small mount, which evidently bears the mark of having once had a building upon it, called *Caistell Olgre*; i. e. "Olaus his Castle." The names of the rest, which are but small in comparison to St Mulvay's, are St Peter's, in Haberl; St Thomas's, in Swan's Best; St Clement's, in North Dell; Holy Cross, at South Galson; St Bridget, in Bour; St Peter's, in Lower Strather; St Mary's, in Upper Barvas; and St John the Baptist's, in Bragir. Betwixt Bour and Galson, upon an eminence, at a small distance from the sea, may be seen the ruins of another pretty Popish chapels.

Country Seats.

large Dun, as it is here called, of a circular form, with passages between its double walls similar to those already described. Tradition says that there was a subterraneous communication to it from the sea, of which no vestige can now be traced. There is another of the same kind in a lake at Bragir, called Loch Duin, but not so large. Three more are to be seen in three small lakes behind Strather and Bour, at a considerable distance from the sea, each of them having a causeway leading to them, which is visible in dry weather. Betwixt Barvas and Strather, in the middle of a deep moss, where no other stones are to be seen, and at a considerable distance from the sea, there is a very large stone standing upright, called *Clach-i-Drushel.*

Country seats.

The proprietors of this county have in general fixed their modern residences towards the east coast, or near the arms of the sea which advance inland from the German Ocean; and here they have greatly improved the country. Thus, in the parish of Rosskeen, about sixty years ago, there were no plantations of any kind, and no natural woods, excepting about the House of Ardross. But since that period, by the continued attention of Sir William Gordon, and his son, Sir John Gordon of Invergordon, a very extensive, well wooded, and beautiful place, has been formed about Invergordon Castle, now the seat of Mr M'Leod of Cadboll. The estate of Milncraig has also had very extensive plantations made upon it; and a considerable farm about the house has been well inclosed and subdivided. The family seat of Novar has been highly cultivated and improved by the late Sir Hector Monro, at a very great expence, and with much and approved taste. It is, indeed, a great and a finished place, and one of the most complete in the north, and the admiration of all travellers to this county. It is very advantageously

Invergordon, Novar, &c.

situated, considerably elevated above the Frith, not a mile distant from it, and commanding a full and extensive view of the neighbouring country, and of the Bay and Headland of Cromarty; objects greatly admired for their singular beauty. Country Seats.

In the parish of Avoch, Rosehaugh House stands on a beautiful bank, about a mile and a half from the sea, on the north side of the southern vale. It is a modern edifice, substantially built, and commodious. It is surrounded by rich fields, in good cultivation, all well fenced, and skirted with woods of different kinds. Besides these, there are several thriving plantations of fir in different parts of this parish. Rosehaugh.

In the parish of Kilmuir Easter, the late Admiral Sir John Lockhart Ross expended upwards of L.10,000 in improving his family estate, and thereby made Balnagown one of the most desirable seats in the north. Immense tracts of ground, at proper distances from the house, are covered with very thriving plantations of fir or forest trees. Most of them were planted by his immediate predecessor, and of which his family now begin to reap the benefit. Within a mile of the House of Balnagown, towards the south, and near the shore, lies New Tarbat, the principal seat of the Earls of Cromarty. This place, once the pride of Ross, both for situation and ornamented grounds, was, during the forfeiture of that family, not only neglected, but dismantled of its principal ornaments. The largest forest trees ever seen in this country were cut down and sold to a company at Leith; much of the ground within the policy or park was parcelled out in lots to disbanded soldiers and sailors; and the most elegant and best finished house in three counties was allowed to fall into ruins. The place, however, promises, in a few years hence, to reco- Balnagown. New Tarbat.

Country Seats.

ver its ancient beauty and grandeur. The late Lord M'Leod, immediately upon the restoration of his estate, began to inclose and extend the policy, planted many thousand forest and fir trees, which are now in a thriving condition, and built a superb house, upon a modern plan, which, in point of elegance and accommodation, is inferior to few seats in Scotland.

Braan Castle.

In the parish of Urray is Braan or Brahan Castle, the principal seat of the Lord Seaforth. It stands near the river Conan, which we have already mentioned as descending from the west into the Frith of Cromarty. It is a fine building, pleasantly situated, commanding a view of a large plain to the south and east, and to the west a wild prospect of broken and lofty mountains. There is here a fine full length of Mary Stuart, with this inscription: "Maria, D. G. Scotiæ piissima Regina, Franciæ Dotaria, anno Ætatis Regni XXXVIII, 1580." Her dress is black, with a ruff, cap, handkerchief, and a white veil down to the ground; beads and prayer-book, and a cross hanging from her neck; her hair dark-brown, her face handsome; and, considering the difference of years, so much resembling her portrait by Zucchero, in Chiswick House, as to leave little doubt as to the originality of the last. A small half-length on wood, of Henry Darnly, inscribed, "Henricus Stuardus, Dominus Darnly, Æt. IX. M.D.L.V." dressed in black, with a sword; it is the figure of a pretty boy. A fine portrait of Cardinal Richelieu; General Monk in a buff coat; head of Sir George M'Kenzie; the Earl of Seaforth, called from his size *Kenneth More*; Frances, Countess of Seaforth, daughter of William Marquis of Powis, in her robes, with a tawny Moor offering her a coronet; Roger Palmer, Earl of Castlemaine, distinguished by his Lady, Barbara Duchess of Cleveland, and by

his simple embassy to a discerning pope, from that bigoted prince James the Second. Improvements.

Besides these, a variety of other handsome residences of the gentry connected with the county are to be found in this quarter. In the parish of Gairloch, on the west coast, also, are several seats belonging to gentlemen of the name of M'Kenzie.

Upon the whole, this county partakes of that spirit of improvement which is at present so active throughout Scotland. It has all the advantages which a maritime situation can bestow; but wanting the essential requisite of mineral coal, unless sea-borne, it is not likely to rival, as a manufacturing territory, those districts in which it abounds; more especially as the latter possess similar advantages in point of navigation. As the arable territory is of very limited extent, it could never support a very crowded population; and the interior of the country being occupied by lofty mountainous tracts, it can never afford a great market for any sort of commodities. Improvements.

The Scottish isles and Highland districts, intersected in all quarters by navigable lochs or branches of the sea, are sometimes rashly brought into comparison with the Dutch provinces; and it is said, that if the latter attained to such importance by manufactures and commerce, why may not our islands or maritime Highland districts do the same? But it ought to be recollected that the Dutch provinces occupy the territory around the mouths of some important navigable rivers, which descend from a fertile and populous territory. These provinces had a great back country, of which they formed the maritime and manufacturing towns. For though Holland was politically divided from Germany and France, and from the Austrian and French Netherlands, no such division existed in a commercial point of view; excepting perhaps

Improvements.

when war was waged against one or either of these parties. On all other occasions, and even in a great measure in time of war, the Dutch were the mariners and trading merchants, who possessed a kind of monopoly of all the importation and exportation of Germany and the Netherlands, and had these great countries as the markets for all their commodities. But although it would be irrational to suppose, that on the shores of our Highland counties cities could ever rise, and be supported, that might rival the ancient commercial importance of Rotterdam or Amsterdam, yet it is evident that they are capable of considerable improvement, by the extension of the fisheries and the establishment of manufactures, for the purpose of giving occupation to commerce. With this view, it may be remarked, that many plans have been suggested; but the greater number of them seem to have taken a wrong direction. The Highland mountains, from the circumstance of their affording winter pasture in large sheltered glens, and from the winter being usually less severe than in the broad parts of the island, have been found adapted, in an uncommon degree, for the rearing of sheep. Even without these advantages, they are evidently much more fit for that object than for rearing black cattle, which cannot find suitable food where animals of a smaller species can be well supported. The great quantities of wool which are thus produced in the Highlands, have suggested the notion that the inhabitants ought to engage in the woollen manufacture; and accordingly most writers upon the subject have pointed out a variety of stations which they suppose to be well adapted for the establishment of such a manufacture. This notion, however, appears to be completely erroneous. The manufacture of wool into valuable cloths is so complicated, that it has succeeded only in a few places in England, and in still fewer in

Scotland; and that too only upon a small scale. The apparatus is great and expensive which is necessary to carry it through the different processes; preparing, spinning, dressing, dyeing, &c. Hence large towns, or at least great capitals, must always take the lead in the establishment of such a manufacture. Excepting for very trifling articles, it is not of the nature of a domestic manufacture; and in all cases the wool must be purchased; that is to say, the store-farmer, who rears the sheep, will never be the person who spins it into cloth. In proportion, too, as the Highland sheep-farms enlarge, which they infallibly will do, the store-masters must become more unwilling to sell their wool in small quantities. Hence, at present, the wool is generally bought up by the agents of English mercantile houses, who for that purpose travel annually into the remotest corners of Ross-shire and Sutherland. With these persons the petty dealers in the country evidently cannot come into competition. At the same time, it seems not improbable that the manufacture of woollen might prove successful, if limited to small articles, such as stockings. Improvements.

On the other hand, the manufactures of flax are much more suitable to the Highlands; and accordingly they prevail to a great extent in the Central Highlands, or Highlands of Perthshire. A moist climate and soil is suitable to the growth of that plant; especially a water-formed soil near the banks of rivers. Linen is in a great degree a domestic manufacture, and has long been established in that form in all quarters of Scotland. It requires no expensive establishment or great capital for carrying it on; the plant can be reared in small patches; and the whole process performed by a single family. The people know the whole process, from the sowing of the flax to the spinning into yarn. There is no risk of over-doing it;

Improvements.

as the quantity imported from Germany is perhaps still equal to the quantity made in Scotland.

It may next be remarked, that perhaps the cotton manufacture, in some of its branches, is no less adapted to what may be called a new country than any of the former. This manufacture has been brought to greater perfection in a few years than the linen or woollen in the course of many ages. Nature seems to have arranged her productions in such a way as to render different parts of the globe useful to each other by an interchange of commodities. As the wool cannot with success be manufactured among mountains, where it is originally produced; so the nations of Europe have of late derived a considerable proportion of the materials of their clothing from the tropical climates, and have converted it in Britain into a sort of staple manufacture. It is no unnatural commerce to exhange the salted fish of the Hebrides for the cotton of the West Indies and of the banks of the Missisippi; and it has already been found advantageous, as formerly remarked, to send cotton yarn from the mills where it is spun into the remote glens of the Highlands, for the purpose of being weaved; and as government is now resolved to make roads at the public expence into every corner of these northern regions, they will be rendered in all quarters accessible to commercial speculators.

The population of the county will appear from the following table.

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	Total of Persons
Alness	1090	1121	500	572	415	46	611	1072
Applecross .	835	1734	935	961	1128	26	742	1896
Avoch	1457	1380	669	807	344	679	453	1476
Barvas	1995	2006	1114	1119	1780	41	412	2233
Contin	1949	2500	904	1040	1870	52	22	1944
Dingwall ..	1030	1379	619	799	356	121	941	1418
Edderton ..	780	1000	405	494	543	63	293	899
Fearn	1898	1600	707	821	576	131	—	1528
Fodderty, Ross div.	—	—	451	494	—	—	—	945
Gairloch ...	2050	2200	740	697	450	41	—	1437
Glenshiel ...	509	721	335	375	638	13	59	710
Killearnan ..	945	1147	553	578	549	68	514	1131
Kilmuir, Easter	1095	1975	771	932	313	116	1274	1703
Ditto, Wester	1367	1805	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kiltearn ...	1570	1616	662	863	722	97	706	1525
Kincardine. .	1743	1600	880	985	660	56	1149	1865
Kintail	698	840	478	560	92	41	905	1038
Kirkmichael	1371	1234	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knockbayne	—	—	840	1019	1712	147	—	1859
Loch Alsh .	613	1334	744	862	369	46	1191	1606
Loch Broom	2211	3500	1663	1870	1463	334	1736	3533
Loch Carron	771	1068	574	604	1121	43	14	1178
Lochs	1267	1768	828	1047	—	—	—	1875
Logie, Easter	850	1125	444	587	653	189	189	1031
Nigg	1261	1133	634	808	777	609	57	1443
Rosemarkie .	1145	1262	579	710	262	153	874	1289
Rosskeen ..	1958	1700	921	1153	211	128	1735	2074
Stornaway ..	1810	2639	1338	1636	252	305	781	2974
Tain	1870	2100	1012	1265	1114	222	941	2277
Tarbat, Crom. div.	1584	1370	620	723	868	333	142	1343
Uig	1312	1898	960	1126	300	328	1458	2086
Urquhart, Ross div.	2590	2901	1264	1556	1568	112	1140	2820
Urray	2456	1860	998	1085	1991	49	43	2083
Total ...	42493	50146	24143	28148	23097	4589	18382	52291

INVERNESS-SHIRE.

Boundaries. THIS is one of the most extensive counties in Scotland. The Moray Frith forms a part of its northern and eastern boundary; and here Inverness-shire is contracted into a narrow angle, having the shire of Nairn on the east, and the Moray Frith and Frith of Beaulie on the north. Its eastern boundary is extremely irregular, stretching along the western side of the counties of Nairn and Moray, and coming into contact with the highest western parts of Banff and Aberdeenshire. A portion of it is in this quarter detached from the rest, and is inclosed by the counties of Banff and Moray. Its southern boundary is less irregular, and may be considered, in general, as running along the summits of the mountains which divide the waters which flow into the Spey, on the north, from those which flow into the Tay, on the south, or into the lakes of Argyleshire. In its south-western part, the county is bounded by Argyleshire; and its southern boundary is here encroached upon by the district of Ardgowar, belonging to Argyleshire, which here advances northward. The western boundary of Inverness-shire is the Atlantic Ocean; which here, as in all the West Highlands, sends forth long inland bays or arms, called lochs, which render a great proportion of the county maritime. The northern boundary of Inverness-shire is most regular; consisting, in its eastern part, of the river Beaulie and the Moray Frith; and in its western part, of the tops of the chain of mountains on the borders of Ross-

shire, that divide the waters which flow into the Frith of Cromarty from those that flow into the Moray Frith. Its north-west corner is bounded by Loch Duich, which separates it from Kintail, or the south-west corner of Ross-shire; and at this corner is the narrow strait or sound that divides the continental part of Inverness-shire from the Isle of Sky. Upon the whole, Inverness-shire may be described as bounded on the north by Ross-shire and part of the Moray Frith; on the east by the shires of Elgin, Moray, and Aberdeen; on the south by Perth and Argyle; and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It comprehends a variety of districts, particularly that of Badenoch, on the south, where it borders with Perth and Aberdeenshire; Lochaber on the south-west, adjoining to Argyleshire; Glenelg on the north-west; besides a variety of inferior districts, such as Glengary, Glen Morrison, Glenshiel, &c. A considerable proportion of the Hebrides or Western Isles are also annexed to it; particularly the Isles of Sky, Harris, North and South Uist, Benbecula, Barra, and Eigg, and the smaller islets which are situated on its coasts. The mainland, excluding the isles, extends in length, from the point of Arisaig on the west to the point of Arderseer on the east, where Fort George is built, about ninety-two miles, and its greatest breadth is nearly fifty miles. Boundaries

One of the most remarkable circumstances attending this county is, that it is divided almost into two equal parts by a valley which runs from south-west to north-east. This valley runs nearly parallel to the Grampians, proceeding, like them, from south-west to north-east; but its direction eastward is somewhat more towards the north than the line of the southern front of Grampians, to which it might otherwise be considered as parallel. This valley is called Glen-more-na-h'Alabin, or the "Great Glen of Albion." Great valley.

Waters. It may be considered as dividing the Highlands into two portions, of which, however, the northern is the largest; and it may be regarded as the northern termination of that immense tract of mountainous country that begins at Dunkeld. It is, in truth, nothing else than a long and deep fissure between the chains of enormous mountains which here run from south-west to north-east. The valley or glen, in the greater part of its length, is filled with water, or a long chain of lakes succeeding each other, and which rise but a little above the level of the sea; a circumstance which has suggested the propriety of taking advantage of this valley to form the canal which is now going on across the island, denominated the *Caledonian Canal*. The fresh water lakes which form the chain from Inverness on the Moray Frith to the Sound of Mull below Fort William, are Loch Ness, Loch Oich, and Loch Lochie. The distance, in a direct line, is little more than fifty miles; and of that space near thirty-six miles is occupied by these three fresh water lakes. The salt water lochs or arms of the sea, which occupy the two extremities of the valley, are the Linnhe Loch, which advances from the Sound of Mull, on the west, to Fort William at the mouth of the Lochie, and the Moray Frith on the east. The following is the statement of the dimensions of the canal now carrying on:

Caledonian canal.

Dimensions of the canal: 20 feet deep, 50 feet wide at bottom, 110 feet wide at top.

Dimensions of the locks: 20 feet deep, 170 feet long, 40 feet broad.

Size of vessels admitted: frigates of 32 guns.

Number of men employed, 900.

The work is in considerable forwardness; and there is reason to expect that the singular spectacle will soon be exhited, of vessels of large burden crossing the British island,

from the Atlantic to the German Ocean, surrounded on all sides by terrific mountains towering to an enormous height. Waters.

Loch Lochie, the most western of the fresh water lakes, is a fine piece of water, about fourteen miles long, and from one to two broad. The mountains on each side are very steep, and in some parts covered with wood. It is to be observed, that the waters of Loch Lochie are chiefly derived from another lake to the northward, called Loch Archaig, which runs in a northern direction. Loch Archaig is sixteen miles long, and only one broad. From it flows the river Archaig, which, after running about a mile, falls into the northern side of Loch Lochie. Loch Lochie gives rise to a river of the same name, which runs westward, and falls into the sea at Fort William. The length of the river Lochie is about ten miles, and the medium breadth about two hundred feet. It is navigable by small boats. Soon after it leaves its parent lake it is entered by a river called the Spean, which descends from some lakes among the mountains to the south. Over the Spean is a bridge called the *High Bridge*, because two of the arches are ninety-five feet in height. Near the mouth of the Lochie, at Fort William, the Nevis descends from behind the great mountain Ben Nevis on the south, and there also enters the arm of sea called the Linnhe Loch, at the inland extremity of which Fort William stands. The eastern termination of Loch Lochie forms the highest part of the chain of lakes already mentioned. Next to Loch Lochie, on the eastward, is Loch Oich, about three miles long. Its banks slope beautifully into the water, forming a number of little bays; and it contains also some beautiful little islands. It gives rise to the river Oich, which flows eastward, and speedily falls into Loch Ness. Loch Lochie. Loch Oich.

This last is a beautiful lake, twenty-two miles long, and from one to two miles and a half broad. Its depth in the middle is from sixty to one hundred and thirty- Loch Ness.

Waters. five fathoms. It sometimes, especially after long-continued rains, rises eight or ten feet perpendicular above low water mark. It is so deep, even at its sides, excepting at the points of Torr and Foyers, that a ship of the line might sail within her length of the shore, from end to end, on either side of the lake. The scenery around this expanse of water is grand and magnificent in a high degree; and to a person sailing on its surface the high hills on each side present a delightful view of wood, pasture, cultivated lands, rivers, rugged and broken precipices. The lake abounds with trout; and sometimes a few salmon are found to have passed the cruives in the river Ness when the water is high. The water of the lake is esteemed very salubrious, but is said to prove laxative to strangers not in the habit of using it, though it certainly possesses no mineral impregnation. It never freezes in the severest winter, and in frosty weather is covered with a thick mist, which has the appearance of smoke. The lake is often agitated by winds, which, sweeping from west to east, and confined in their passage through the Glen-more-na-h'Alabin, cause immense waves to break against its rugged banks; But, like some other lakes, its waters have at times been unaccountably agitated, when there were no extraordinary currents of wind that could ruffle its surface.

Singular agitation of Loch Ness. On the 1st November 1755, at the time of the great earthquake at Lisbon, the water of Loch Ness was agitated in an extraordinary manner. The water rose rapidly, and flowed up the lake from east to west with amazing impetuosity; the waves being carried more than two hundred yards up the river Oich, breaking on its banks five feet above the level of the river. It continued ebbing and flowing for about an hour; at the end of which time, a wave much greater than the others terminated the commotion, overflowing the north bank of the lake to the extent of thirty

feet. The fact that Loch Ness never freezes, though well ascertained, was doubted by Dr Johnson, though it is nothing different from what takes place in all lakes that are large and deep. The reason why it never freezes is evidently its great depth; though the above mentioned author, who was a better philologist than natural philosopher, asserts that this circumstance can have little share in its exemption. It will not, however, require any intricate investigation to explain the reason why deep lakes are more difficult to freeze than shallow collections of water, even of much greater extent. The cold air in winter, which passes over the surface of the water, robs it of its heat and condenses it, in consequence of its specific gravity being increased. It falls down to the bottom of the lake, and its place is supplied by the warmer and more rarefied water rising from below. This change of place will go on till the whole of the water arrive nearly at the freezing point before it can possibly freeze; and where lakes are very deep, the winter season is not sufficient to produce this effect. The water, when taken out of the lake, freezes very easily, as might be expected from its purity. Waters.

The river Ness rises from the eastern extremity of Loch Ness, runs in an easterly direction for six miles, and falls into the Moray Frith at the town of Inverness, of which its estuary forms the harbour. It is about eight miles long, and runs slowly with placid majesty, never overflowing its banks, in a channel whose fall is scarcely ten feet. In the midst of it is a beautiful island covered with trees. River Ness.

This chain of rivers and lakes was made, as will be afterwards noticed, the tract of a chain of forts, when the British government was endeavouring to subdue the aristocracy of the Highlands, and reduce this mountainous territory under the dominion of law. The waters which fall into the

Waters. eastern part of the chain of lakes, that is, below the head of Loch Oich, come chiefly from the south; the Tarff, the Errick, and Foyers, and a variety of other torrents, which descend from the mountains, where great numbers of lakes are found. The Foyers is remarkable on account of its celebrated falls. The river takes its rise among the lofty mountains of Boleskine and Abertarff, and pouring through the vale of Foyers, falls into Loch Ness nearly in the middle between the eastern and the western extremities of that lake. The vale is as romantic as can well be supposed. The banks of the river and the sides of the mountains are covered with weeping birch; and here and there the mountains present their naked precipitous fronts, from which huge fragments of rock have been hurled to the bottom; and here the beautiful plant, the Alchemilla Alpina, grows in the greatest abundance and luxuriance. Dr Garnet describes the falls of Foyers with much accuracy. "Having left our horses," says he, "at General's Hut, we were conducted by our landlord to the falls. We first visited the upper one, which is about a mile and a half from the house, and nearly half a mile above the lower fall. Here the river Foyers, being confined on each side by steep rocks, precipitates itself with great velocity, forming a very fine cataract. A little below the fall, a bridge has been thrown over by the proprietor, Frazer of Foyers, from which the fall is seen; but, in order to obtain a proper view of it, we with some difficulty scrambled down the steep banks to the rocks below, from whence we beheld this romantic scene in perfection. The bridge and rocks formed a fine frame or fore ground; behind which, at the distance of perhaps twenty yards, appeared the first part of the fall. The second and most important break was a few yards nearer, and the lowest almost under the arch. Our guide was present when very accurate mea-

Fall of Foyers.

surements were taken of these falls; the following particulars are therefore put down from his information: Waters.

Feet.

"From the arch of the bridge to the surface of the water after the lowest part of the fall..... 200

"Height of the fall..... 70

"The bridge was built about sixteen years ago; before which time the only passage over this torrent was a rude alpine bridge, consisting of some sticks thrown over the rocks, and covered with turf. It was crossed by the peasantry on foot, but must certainly have turned giddy the steadiest heads unaccustomed to such scenes. About three years before the present bridge was built, a neighbouring farmer, on his way home from Inverness, had called at the General's Hut, to shelter himself from the inclemency of the storm, and drive out the invading cold, by reinforcing the garrison in the stomach. Here he met with some old acquaintance, with whom he conversed of former times, without observing the frequency of the circulating glass. The snow continued to fall in thick flakes, and they were sitting by a comfortable fire. At last, when the fumes of the whisky had taken possession of his brain, and raised his spirits to no ordinary pitch, he determined to go home. When he came to this place, having been accustomed to cross the rude bridge on foot, he habitually took this road, and forced his horse over it. Next morning he had some faint recollection of the circumstance, though the seeming impossibility of the thing made him suspect it was a dream; but as the ground was covered with snow, it was very easy to convince himself. He accordingly went; and when he perceived the tracks of his horse's feet along the bridge, he fell ill, and died shortly afterwards. In our way to the lower fall our guide showed a cave of considerable size, near the river, where

Waters. the freebooters used to shelter themselves in turbulent times. There was a way to escape towards the water should the main entry be discovered. Our next object was the lower fall. When we came to the two rude pillars before mentioned, we left the road and went down the side of the hill. The descent to the point of view is difficult, but we were amply repaid for our trouble. The following particulars are put down from the information of our guide:

	Feet.
"From the top of the rocks to the surface of the water	470
"Height of the fall in one continued stream	207
"From the surface of the smooth water above to the beginning of the uninterrupted fall	5
"So that the height of the fall may properly be called	212

"Down this precipice the river rushes, with a noise like thunder, into the abyss below, forming an unbroken stream as white as snow. From the violent agitation arises a spray which envelopes the spectator, and spreads to a considerable distance. The following beautiful description of this fall was written by Burns as he was standing by it:

Among the heathy hills and ragged woods,
The roaring Fyers pours his mossy floods,
Till full he dashes on the rocky mounds,
Where through a shapeless breach his stream resounds.
As high in air the bursting torrents flow,
As deep recoiling surges foam below,
Prone down the rock the whitening sheet descends,
And viewless Echo's ear astonish'd rends:
Dim seen, through rising mists and careless showers,
The hoary cavern wide surrounding low'rs;
Still through the gap the struggling river toils,
And still below the horrid caldron boils.

This is undoubtedly one of highest falls in the world, and the quantity of water is sufficient to give it consequence. The scene is awful and grand; and I suppose that any person who has once beheld it will readily agree that it is worth while to travel from Fort William to this place merely to see the fall. Though an immense body of water falls down the celebrated cascade of Niagara in North America, yet its height is not much more than half the height of this, being only 140 feet." Waters.

The waters that fall into the eastern part of the chain of lakes from the north, are chiefly the Garry, the Morriston, and the Enneric and Coiltie. The Garry rises from a loch of the same name, and gives its appellation to a considerable district called Glengarry. It flows towards the north-east, and falls into Loch Oich. The Morriston is a considerable stream, which rises in Glensheil, and passing through Loch Cluani, falls into Loch Ness near the house of Major Grant of Glen Morriston, where a little above its entry into the loch it forms a grand cascade. Here there is a salmon fishing, which in some seasons turns to pretty good account; but owing to the rock over which the river falls, the fish are prevented from getting farther up the stream, and of course the fishing is much less productive. The Enneric and Coiltie rise in the hills of Urquhart, and fall into Loch Ness, near each other, a little below the church of Kilmore. Upon these waters, and in Glen Urquhart is much beautiful scenery. Loch Meekly, in the middle of the braes of Urquhart, is a beautiful sheet of water, about a mile long and half a mile broad. The woods, the finely cultivated fields, and the neat gentlemen's houses, which surround this lake, form a very picturesque and romantic landscape. Garry, Morriston, &c.

The chain of lakes already mentioned may be considered as two rivers, which receive the waters of the

Waters. greatest part of Inverness-shire, and convey them to the eastern and western oceans. It is said that pikes are not found in those lochs in the Highlands whose waters descend into the Atlantic; whereas they are found in those lakes whose waters flow eastward into the German Ocean. The other principal rivers in Inverness-shire have already been mentioned when treating of other counties. These are the Beaulie, on the north, and the Spey on the south.

Beaulie. The Beaulie is chiefly composed of three lesser streams; the Farrur, Canich, and Glass, that give names to as many glens. The river formed by these streams runs about eight miles before it enters the Frith of Beaulie, or most western division of the Moray Frith. On this track are the falls of Kilmorach, a few miles to the west of the village of Beaulie. The banks of the river are covered with natural wood, and are bold and rocky. At one place the river divides, forming the beautiful island Aigash, on which several saw-mills are erected. The Beaulie has a very valuable salmon fishing below the falls. In the months of July and August many salmon come to the foot of the falls. When a flood occurs they all endeavour to get up the river; but as the water in which they swim is constantly agitated and frothy, on account of the height from which it falls, they cannot see before them, often mistake their direction, and leap on the dry rock. It is therefore a common practice with the people in the neighbourhood to lay branches of trees along the side of the stream, to prevent the fish tumbling back into the river. Twenty salmon, by these means, have often, in a morning, been taken on the dry rock. The last Lord Lovat is said to have performed a curious experiment here. He made a fire upon the rock, and placed on it a large pot with water. Speedily a great salmon, making a leap in a wrong direction, tumbled into the pot, where it was soon

Falls of Kilmorach.

boiled, and no doubt eaten by his Lordship and his attendants. This was done, that his Lordship might be enabled to boast in the south of the wonders that existed in the Highlands, which were then little known; and to say that in his country provisions abounded so much, that if a fire was made, and a pot set to boil, on the banks of a river, the salmon would of themselves leap into the pot to be boiled, without requiring to be caught by a fisherman. Waters.

It may be remarked, that about forty miles west from Beaulie, amidst wild and lofty mountains, is Loch Wain, which deserves to be noticed, as the only phenomenon of the kind in Britain. This lake is constantly, both in summer and winter, covered with ice; but in the middle of June, when the sun is most nearly vertical, a very little of the ice in the centre of the lake is dissolved. Loch Wain always frozen.

The river Spey rises towards the south-western part of this county out of a small lake of the same name. Loch Spey is situated amidst the mountains nearly due south from Loch Oich, and its waters interlock with those which run westward into the Atlantic Ocean. It flows, in its upper part, through Badenoch, and receives in its course a great variety of mountain torrents, particularly the Truin, near the church of Laggan, and others. It passes along a great part of its course, of ninety miles, in a line eastward and northward, through extensive tracts of fertile valley-ground, which, however, occasionally suffers greatly by its floods. It passes through the great fir woods of Glenmore and Strathspey; the trees of which, as formerly mentioned, are conveyed to the ocean by means of its waters. In its lower part it passes through much beautiful country between Moray and Banffshire. It gives name to a famous species of Scottish tunes called *Strathspeys*. Spey.

Besides these already mentioned, a vast variety of

Waters. streams and lakes are to be found in this great Highland county. For example, Loch Laggan, to the south of Loch Spey, among the Grampians, with its environs, forms a large district in Badenoch. Loch Laggan is fifteen miles in length, and about one and a half in breadth. On the south side is the Coill More, or Great Wood, the most considerable remnant of the great Caledonian forest. To the southward of Loch Laggan is Loch Ericht, partly in Perthshire, and partly in Inverness-shire, in the very heart of the Grampians, encompassed on all sides by lofty mountains and rugged cliffs of the most tremendous aspect.

Several arms of the sea advance into the west coast of Inverness-shire: such as the Sound of Sky; on which stand the Barracks of Bernera: Loch Hourn, Loch Nevish, Loch Morven, Loch Aylert, Loch Sheil, and Locheil; which two last form a part of the boundary between this county and Argyleshire.

It would be in vain to attempt to give a particular description of the scenery to be met with in this great county; consisting, as the whole surface of it does, of lofty mountains, which, especially towards the west, are piled above each other in horrid magnificence; and between all of which are deep glens, of a boundless variety of formation, each of which has its stream and its lake, and many of which abound in woods. Some of the mountains, however, are of too great note to be passed over without particular attention. This is more especially the case with Ben-Nevis. regard to the celebrated Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the island of Great Britain. This enormous pile stands to the south-east of Fort William. It is no less than 4370 feet in height. It is easily ascended by a ridge of the mountain towards the west, about a quarter of a mile up the water Nevis from the house where the proprietor re-

sides. There is good pasture for sheep here, as well as on the surrounding hills, for a great way up. The view is entirely confined within Glenurs Hill, till you have got up about 500 yards perpendicular. Indeed the valley, though confined, presents an agreeable prospect. The vista is beautified with a diversity of bushes, shrubs, and birch-woods, the seats of roes and deer, besides many lovely spots of green; a decent neat rural mansion, encircled by a young flourishing plantation; a river at the bottom of the vale, which, after being broken by a heap of mis-shapen stones, glides away in a clear stream, and wandering through woods, vales, and rocks, loses itself in the sea. To heighten the pleasure of the charming view, the sea and the shores present themselves. This is such a prospect as must expand the heart, and delight the spectator attached to the charms of nature and to rural scenes; and recal to mind the days of old, when princes and princesses are said to have tended their herds and flocks amidst the beauties of Arcadia. Upon ascending above this height, the prospect opens and enlarges to the south-west, and you behold the Strait of Corran, the Islands of Shuna and Lismore, the south-east part of Mull, together with the Islands of Saile and Kerrera on the opposite coast of Argyle. At this altitude two elevated hills make their appearance over these isles, which, by their shape, declare themselves to be the Paps of Jura. Turning to the west, and inclining a little towards the north, you see the small isles, particularly Rum and Canna, and the sound that separates them from Sky; and beyond all these, the Cullin Hills, which form the west part of Sky itself. Here the prospect to the east is wholly obstructed by the upper part of the mountain: But still every part of Locheil can be easily observed, over which the whole horizon is surprisingly equal. One uninterrupted range

Ben-Nevis

Ben-Nevis. of hills, which rise one behind another, presents no particular object worth distinguishing.

From the altitude of 600 or 700 yards upwards, there is no vegetation at all, but merely rocks and stony parts, without even a mixture of earth. These parts are called Scarnachs. They are quite flat, and may be walked over without any detriment. Upon entering into them, some excellent springs of water are to be found. Here one is deceived with the appearance of a high part, which seems to be the top of the hill. The deception returns, and is repeated twice or thrice before you reach the summit, which is flat, and bears some resemblance to the segment of an arch held in a horizontal position. The left side appears to be the highest. Hence you walk with ease over the flat weather-beaten stones that lie close to each other with a gentle declivity, and form an easy pavement to the feet. You now come all at once to the brink of a pricipice on the north-east of the mountain, almost perpendicular, certainly not less than 400 or 500 yards, perhaps more; as it appears to exceed the third part of the whole height of the hill. A stranger is astonished at the sight of this dreadful rock, which has a quantity of snow lodged in its bosom through the whole year. The sound of a stone thrown over the cliff to the bottom cannot be heard when it falls; so that the height of the precipice cannot be ascertained by that easy experiment. Looking to the east, Loch Laggan appears, and to the south-east Loch Rannach in Perthshire. But Loch Tay, being covered with the land, cannot be seen, nor Loch Ericht. If you have a good map of the country, lay it here in a horizontal position; and placing your eye on that part of it where Ben Nevis is delineated, turn it till the natural position of Loch Rannoch coincides with its image on the map, and you will then have before your

eye a true representation of the objects in view. In this manner you will be able to discover the names of those high mountains which rise above the rest: viz. Creuchan-Bhane, near Bunan in Glenorchy, Shichallion, Ben More, and Ben-Lawers in Perthshire, Bhillan in Glenco, Ben More in the Island of Mull, Ben-Naes, and other hills in Ross-shire. The whole of the great glen of Scotland, from Fort George to the Sound of Mull, is at once in view, comprehending the fresh water lakes of Ness, Oich, and Lochie; and all the course of the two rivers Ness and Lochie, from their source to the place where they enter into the salt water, running in opposite directions, the one north-east and the other south-west. The extent of view on the horizon of the sea is about eighty miles. One sees at once across the island eastward to the German Ocean, and westward to the Atlantic Ocean. Nature here appears on a majestic scale, and the vastness of the prospect engages one's whole attention. Particular objects are but few in number; and they of no common dimensions, else the eye would overlook them. Such are these high mountains, already enumerated, which rise with sublime aspect over the other hills; but you are instantly sensible that none of them is elevated so high as the spot on which you stand. Ben-Nevis.

Just over the opening of the Sound, at the south-west corner of Mull, Colonsa rises out of the sea like a shade of mist, at the distance of more than ninety miles. Shuna and Lismore are like small spots of rich verdure; and though distant near thirty miles, seem quite near, and under the beholder. The low parts of Jura cannot be discovered, nor any part of Isla; far less the coast of Ireland, which some have pretended to see from the top of Ben Nevis. Such, however, is the wide extent of view from the summit of this mountain, that it reaches 110

Ben-Nevis. miles from the horizon of the sea at the Murray Frith, on the north-east, to the Island of Colonsa on the south-west. Could one pass a night in October on the summit of Ben Nevis, it is probable that he would discover the heavenly bodies in greater splendour than upon Mount Blanc itself. The latter, it is true, is much higher; but the former is in a colder climate, and consequently, when fair, in a less shaded sky. The high hills on each side of the lakes and rivers mentioned above, opening like huge walls or ramparts on each side, yield a curious variety of agreeable wild prospects; the vast windings whereof make the several turnings of the mountains rather diversify the scene than obstruct the eye. Their extremities, declining gradually from their several summits, open into valleys, where one has variegated views of woods, rivers, plains, and lakes. The torrents of water, which here and there tumble down the precipices, and in many places break through the cracks and cliffs of the rocks, arrest the eye, and suspend the mind in awful astonishment. In a word, the number, the extent, and the variety of the several prospects, the irregular wildness of the hills, of the rocks, and of the precipices; the noise of rivulets and of torrents, breaking and foaming among the stones in such a diversity of shapes and colours; the shining smoothness of the seas and of the lakes; the rapidity and rumbling of the rivers, falling from shelve to shelve, and forcing their streams through a multitude of obstructions; the serenity of the azure skies, and the splendour of the glorious sun, riding in the brightness of his majesty—have something so charmingly wild and romantic, and so congenial to the contemplative mind, as surpasses all description, and presents a scene, of which the most fervid imagination can form no idea.

Few can perform a journey to the top of Ben Nevis, and

make proper observations, going and returning, in less than seven hours; and still fewer without feeling in their limbs the effects of the fatigue for a day or two after. A great part of the mountain of Ben Nevis is composed of porphyry. It is a remarkably fine, beautiful, and elegant stone, of a reddish cast, in which the palè rose, the blush, and the yellowish white colours are finely shaded through the body of the stone, which is of a jelly-like texture, and is undoubtedly one of the finest and most elegant stones in the world. About three-fourths of the way up this hill, upon the north-west side, there is found a porphyry of a greenish colour, with a tinge of brownish red. This stone is smooth and hard and heavy, of a close uniform texture, but of no brightness when broken. It is spotted with angular specks of a white quartzy substance. "The elegant reddish granite of Ben Nevis (says Williams, in his View of the Mineral Kingdom), is perhaps the best and most beautiful in the world; and there is enough of it to serve all the kingdoms of the universe, though they were all as fond of granite as ancient Egypt." Ben-Nevis.

A singular curiosity is to be seen in the parish of Kilmanavaig; viz. the celebrated parallel roads in Glenroy. They are to be seen in the eastern part of that parish, on the declivities of steep and lofty mountains, which extend for seven or eight miles on each side of the water of Roy, in the direction south-west and north-east; and the opening betwixt which forms the valley which goes under the name of Glenroy. There were originally three lines of these roads on each side of the glen; each corresponding in height to the one opposite to it. The lowermost, however, is in some parts effaced, particularly on the south side. They all run parallel to each other, and in an horizontal direction, humouring the windings of the mountains. Their dimensions are various. In general, they Glenroy roads.

Glenroy. are from sixty to seventy feet in breadth; and the distance betwixt two of them has been found to be about one hundred and eighty. Similar roads are likewise to be seen in two of the adjacent glens, but not in such perfection. The following are the common opinions and traditions of the country concerning these roads, as they are called; though they may, with much greater propriety, be denominated terraces. One opinion is, that they were made by the kings of Scotland when the royal residence was in the Castle of Inverlochy, which is not above eleven miles from the nearest of them; and what gives an appearance of truth to this tradition, in the opinion of those who maintain it, is, that the construction of these roads was so vast an undertaking as could not be effected by a vassal or nobleman, however powerful. Another tradition, which is that of the natives, is, that they were made by the Fingalians; and under the name of *Fingalian roads* they are still known in this country. Of this the natives are convinced, from this circumstance, that several of the hills of this glen have retained, from time immemorial, the names of some of the heroes of Fingal: such as the Hill of Gaul, the son of Morni; that of Diarmid and of Tillan; and likewise of Bran, the famous dog of Fingal, &c. The popular tradition is, that the roads were formed to facilitate the exercise of hunting by these ancient heroes.

Dr Anderson speaks thus of these roads in his View of the Agriculture of the County of Aberdeen: "These roads are carried forward, along the sides of the hills, in a direction every where perfectly horizontal. Wherever they come to a vacuity in the hill, they there bend inwards till they find the natural level; and where they come to a river, instead of sinking down to the level of its bottom, or requiring to have a bridge directly across it to raise the ground to its proper level, they turn up the bank of the river,

keeping still their horizontal direction, till they thus gradually reach the bottom of the stream, when, crossing it, and altering their direction once more, they pursue the course of the stream on the opposite bank till they reach the strath, when they proceed forward in the same horizontal direction as before." Glenroy.

There can be little doubt that these parallel terraces are not works of art, but natural phenomena, as suggested by Mr Jamieson, Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, in his Account of the Mineralogy of Dumfriesshire. Glenroy must, at a former period, have been a lake, the surface of whose waters stood some fathoms above the highest of the parallel roads or terraces. When the river was in flood, it brought down from the surrounding heights great quantities of mud, which was deposited in the lake, but chiefly at the sides; because there a back-current would be formed, of more slow motion than in the middle of the lake, where the downward current of the stream would preserve a considerable degree of its strength. At the lower part of the glen, however, the lake, after the lapse of ages, burst its barriers, or the stream suddenly broke out a passage for itself, so as to reduce the surface of the waters of the lake to the level of some fathoms above the second terrace or parallel road. The mud which had formerly been deposited at the sides of the lake, when its surface was at the highest, would now become the uppermost of the parallel roads already described. The mud or earth in the centre of the lake would fall down to the new level, or be carried off by the river when in flood. This operation must have been thrice repeated to produce the three parallel roads or terraces; and at last the river has burst for itself the channel which it now occupies; and having a declivity along its whole course, has converted this ancient lake into a glen or deep valley.

Caverns, &c.

In the same neighbourhood, about eight miles from the mouth of the river Nevis, is a remarkable cave, known by the name of *Haigh-t'Hoville*, or "Samuel's Cave;" that being the patronymic of the family of Glenevis. This cave is in the heart of a rock, which appears to be about seventy feet high, and nearly as broad, leaning to the side of a mount south of the river, and not far distant from it. It is of difficult access, having quite close to the entrance a perpendicular rock thirty or forty feet high. The cave appears to be formed by one part of the rock leaning to the other, and forming between them an arched, irregular, shapeless kind of grotto, from six to twelve or fourteen feet high. It is thirty feet long and eleven broad. The floor is very uneven, sloping from the mouth all the way. There are three divisions in it; the largest of which would afford shelter for about thirty people. At its extremity there are two other passages leading farther into the rock; both are quite dark. These apertures conduct through the body of the rock to other recesses; but such is their dark and hideous appearance that few can be prevailed upon to enter them. One of these passages opens at the extremity of the large apartment, and is lined with a shelving precipitous rock, that goes about ten feet downwards, and effectually deters most of the visitants from proceeding any farther. The other passage is nearly over it, at the roof of the vault, to which one may easily ascend by the help of a sloping part of the rock. The earth on the floor of the cave, and the drops oozing through the crevices, occasion a perpetual dampness and disagreeable smell. It is the frightful habitation of darkness; an abode fit to be inhabited only by the sons of despair; being one of those hollow caverns where the subterraneous winds blow. Hither, however, some persons retreated for safety in the year 1746, and there they for some time lived secure. The mouth

of the cave is not above three feet and a half high, and is pretty much concealed by its situation. The largeness of the rock where it is, and some fir trees on its top, will lead to a discovery of it. Just opposite to the rock where the last mentioned cave is, on the other side of the river, there is a most beautiful cascade, falling down by a gradual slope from Ben Nevis, upwards of half a mile before it reaches the bottom of the valley, where it unites its streams with those of the Nevis. About two miles farther up the Nevis there is another cascade, which, after forcing its way through hills and rocks, has a fall of at least 500 feet perpendicular. It is on the same side of the river with the cave. This neighbourhood, as may naturally be expected from the number of mountains, abounds with cascades, that produce much beautiful and picturesque scenery. Caverns, &c.

In the same neighbourhood, near Balachulish, there is a cavern, of such difficult access, that no body of late has ventured to explore it; but it is not a great number of years since a man, who had been under the necessity of flying for his crimes, made it the place of his retreat for about three years. During the day he kept within his cell; but as soon as the darkness of the night favoured him, he issued forth in quest of provisions. Growing at last too confident, he ventured to sally out in the day-time, and was apprehended. Indeed, such is the rude wildness of the mountains, rocks, and glens, with the security afforded by the woods, that it is not wonderful the mountain chiefs and inhabitants of this country so long retained their independence. Neither will it appear surprising that, after the inhabitants were disarmed by military force, outlaws and desperate persons should have here attempted to find security. Not more than twenty years ago, a dangerous banditti infested Inverness-shire. They consisted of

Caverns, &c.

a set of deserters and robbers, leagued together to the annoyance of the whole country. The military from the forts upon the great chain of lakes were sent in parties in pursuit of them among the fastnesses and caverns of the mountains. After much labour the leaders of the banditti were taken. Some were executed, others were transported to distant colonies; and the association being thus broken, the country remained in tranquillity. It may be remarked, that notwithstanding the mountainous nature of the Highlands, the roads which have been formed there are excellent. The mountains afford materials of a very durable quality; and as they are not much travelled upon, when once formed, they remain good for a great length of time. By following also the sides of the streams along the valleys, and thereby winding around the hills, instead of attempting to climb over them, as was too often done when the first roads were formed in the south, a gradual and regular declivity is obtained; so that it is a singular truth, that excepting in certain instances, the roads in this terrific country are more regular and level than in most parts of the island. Travelling is also extremely safe in the Highlands, by night or by day. The people of the country are inoffensive and hospitable; and there can be no highwaymen where there are so few travellers.

Agriculture.

Concerning the agriculture of this county it is unnecessary to say much. The north-eastern corner of the county adjacent to the Moray Frith is to be considered as a part of the Lowlands of Scotland, but all the rest of the county belongs to the Highlands. The low country adjacent to Inverness is, upon the whole, well cultivated. Along the rest of the east coast it enjoys the benefit of a more dry climate than is to be found in the west. Considerable quantities of wheat are sown here, together with barley, oats, and peas. Potatoes are raised in great abundance, and

constitute the principal food of the poorer class of inhabitants. Some rye is sown, generally mixed with oats, which gives a softness to the oat bread of this country. Upon the banks of the Spey, in that part of the county on the east which interposes beween Moray and Banffshire, near Castle Grant, a very improved style of cultivation has been introduced, and great efforts have been made to protect the fine valleys adjoining to the river from the effect of its terrible inundations, occasioned by the heavy rains in the mountains near the head of Strathspey. In the upper part of the country, and indeed in every quarter where, in consequence of the humanity of the proprietors, or their attachment to their people, possessions remain on as small a scale as formerly, the most miserable agriculture is necessarily found. In the remotest districts, the harness of a horse still consists of a bridle made of the twisted twigs of birch; a stick, about a yard long, put under the horse's tail, and tied with twigs, for a crupper. The saddle is a pad made of coarse sacking, tied with twisted birch twigs or hair ropes. Considerable quantities of small Highland cattle are still reared in the country; but sheep-farming is altogether the favourite system. Since the introduction of sheep the small tenantry are gradually wearing away, and the country becomes thinned of population; but, fortunately, those who are thus driven from their farms find employment in the manufactures of the town of Inverness, which has increased in population in a greater proportion than the country has diminished. Great numbers of the young men are gone into the regiments and bodies of troops that were raised under the influence of the great families of Grant, Gordon, and others who have a numerous small tenantry; and numbers of the people are now employed, not only at the canal already mentioned, but in forming the additional roads which have

Agriculture.

Pasturage. been directed to be formed through the Highlands at the expence of government.

Soil. The highest and wildest parts of this county have been found extremely well adapted for the pasture of sheep. The mountains of Lochaber are exceedingly fit for being stocked with sheep. Even the high tops of them are green, and afford fine pasture. About mid-hill there is commonly moss, which is flat when compared with the steep slopes above it; and below that moss there is generally what is called a *brae face*, which, from the spouts issuing in consequence of the flat above, is much covered with sprets, intermixed with tufts of heath growing upon the small heights formed by the little runs that are collected from the different springs. This spretty coarse grass is not easily killed by frost, and is therefore a great resource to the sheep in winter; and the tufts of heath, standing high and intermixed with it, are of considerable benefit in falls of snow. In the spring the sheep go up to the moss, and there find bent and other plants that rise early in such a soil. In summer the sheep take to the high green tops of the mountains, where they pasture and lie at their ease, cool and unmolested with flies, and without having in view any higher ground, which at that season they are restless to get up to; it being a fact well known, that when sheep are prevented in summer from going to the highest grounds they either have before known, or can see connected with the pasture they are in, they do not feed pleasantly or well: and this observation applies equally to them in regard to the low grounds in similar circumstances during the winter. This is confirmed by a well known fact, that a blind sheep, confined to one pasture, feeds better than those that see when confined at the same time with it.

Cattle. The cattle kept in these mountains are extremely hardy. In Lochaber they run out all winter; and this also is the

case with their small breed of horses. These last animals shift for themselves, among the hills, during the severest season, until their owners begin to plough the little arable land that they keep under crop; and even when thus taken from the provender of nature, and after being exposed to all the storms of winter, they are found equal to all the labour that their owners have occasion to demand of them. Cattle.

The mountains and forests are inhabited by immense herds of red and roe deer, which here roam in safety, in recesses almost impenetrable to man. The alpine and common hare, and other game, are also abundant. The fir woods in Glenmore and Strathspey, the property of the Duke of Gordon and Sir James Grant, are supposed to be far more extensive than all the other natural woods in Scotland together. Indeed large tracts, in all quarters of the country, have considerable forests; and there are natural plantations of great extent near the seats of the different proprietors, which stand in general on the sea-coast or lakes. In the parish of Kilmalie alone, near Fort William, it is supposed that there are about 14,000 acres covered with trees. The trees that grow naturally are oak, fir, birch, ash, mountain ash, holly, elm, wild geen, hazle, and the Scottish poplar. Those planted are larix, spruce, silver fir, beech, plane, and fruit trees. Forests.

Limestone is found in every district of this county, approaching to the nature of marble. In Lochaber, near the farmhouses of Ballachulish, there is a limestone or marble rock, of a beautiful ashen grey colour, and of a fine regular uniform grain or texture, capable of being raised in blocks or slabs of any size, and capable of receiving a fine polish. This singular rock is finely sprinkled throughout with grains and specks of fine bright mundic or pyrites, and likewise with grains and specks of beauti- Minerals.

Mineralogy. Marble.

ful lead-ore of a fine texture, which to the eye appears to be rich in silver. This would make a bright and beautiful metallic marble. In the farm of Blarmachfuildach, belonging to the Duke of Gordon, about three miles south of Fort William, in the bed of a river, there is a very singular marble, consisting of a black ground, and flowered with white. This stone is of a fine close grain or uniform texture, but not very hard; the flowering in it is light, elegant, and beautiful, like fine needle-work, or rather resembling the frosty fret-work upon glass-windows in a winter morning; and this flowering is not only upon the outside, but quite through all parts of the body of the stone.

Porphyry, &c.

We have already mentioned the porphyry and granite of Ben Nevis. Indeed many of the mountains are composed of reddish granite. In the parish of Kingussie, a rich vein of silver was discovered, and attempted to be wrought, but without success; and in other places veins of lead, containing silver, have been discovered. Iron ore has also been found, but not in sufficient quantity to render it an object of manufacture.

Inverness.

This county contains only one royal borough, Inverness, which stands, as already mentioned, in the low eastern quarter of the county, upon the Moray Frith. It is a large and well built town. The houses are lofty, and many of them elegant. It is considered in some degree as the capital of the Highlands, being the only town of any importance beyond Aberdeen. On the High Street, nearly in the centre of the town, stands the Court-House, connected with the Tolbooth, a handsome modern building, with a fine tower, terminated by a very elegant spire. The town stands on both sides of the river Ness; but the southern part is the most populous and extensive. The two parts are united by a stone bridge of seven arches. A most valuable institution, the Academy, deserves particu-

lar notice. It was finally established in 1790. The gentlemen of this and some of the neighbouring counties had long considered the establishment of a seminary of learnings, on a liberal and extensive plan, of very great importance to this part of the country. A committee having been appointed, in the year 1787, to consider of the most proper methods for carrying it into effect, immediately commenced an extensive correspondence; and subscriptions were opened in Scotland, England, France, America, and the East and West Indies, in all of which natives of this county were settled. A piece of ground, containing about three acres, was purchased, and an elegant building erected, consisting of a large public hall, with six very spacious apartments for the accommodation of the different classes, the library, and philosophical apparatus. The business is conducted by a rector and four tutors. In the first class the English language is taught grammatically; in the second, Latin and Greek: in the third, arithmetic and book-keeping: in the fourth, the elements of Euclid, with their application to plane and spherical trigonometry; mensuration of solids and surfaces in all its parts; geography, with the use of the globes; navigation, and the most useful parts of practical astronomy; naval, civil, and military architecture; practical gunnery, perspective, and drawing: In the fifth or highest, which is the rector's class, are taught civil and natural history, experimental philosophy, and chemistry. Inverness Academy.

The rector has a house and small salary. The different tutors have likewise small salaries; so that they depend chiefly on the fees of their different classes, which makes them much more attentive and industrious. The fees for each session are, to the master of the first class six shillings; to the master of the second class, twelve shillings; the same to the master of the third. The fee for each

Inverness. session to the master of the fourth is one guinea; and to the master of the highest class, one guinea and a half. Besides these fees there is a small sum paid by every student attending the academy to the rector. The number of students is generally between two and three hundred. The year is divided into two terms or sessions. The first begins the 18th of July, and ends on the 20th of December; the second begins on the 5th of January, and ends on the 10th of June. The directors of the academy are, the provost, bailies, dean of guild, sheriff of the county, and the moderator of the presbytery of Inverness. Subscribers of L.50 are likewise directors for life; and subscribers to the amount of L.100 are perpetual directors; *i. e.* the direction is continued to their heirs and assigns. Besides these directors, five gentlemen of the county are annually elected at the Michaelmas head-court. At the desire of the Highland Society of London, a class has been opened for teaching the Gaelic language, with a salary of L.15 *per annum*, to which the directors have added L.16. An infirmary has also been here established.

Municipal government. The town is governed by a provost, four bailies, and a dean of guild, assisted by a council, consisting of twenty-one members, called the town-council. The new council are elected every year by the old before their office expires. The new council elect from their number the provost, bailies, dean of guild, and a treasurer. There are six corporations of craftsmen, besides several crafts not incorporated.

History. Inverness is a royal borough of great antiquity. Its first charter was granted by King Malcolm Canmore. It always stood firm in its allegiance to the crown; and maintained in ancient times, with the neighbouring rebellious chieftains and their clans, many desperate conflicts. The following names are traces of this state of hostility. On the west side, where irruptions were

commonly made, and at some little distance from the town, there is a place called *Pallfaire*, that is, "the Watch-Town;" a hill, *Tomnafaire*, "the Watch-Hill;" and a large stone, *Clachnafaire*, "the Watch-Stone." Near this noted stone is a small fishing village, which is called by its name. The last charter in favour of the borough was granted by King James the Sixth. From the date of this charter to the revolution in 1698, the inhabitants were an industrious, enterprising, and thriving people. Several opulent families, now flourishing in the country, derive their riches from ancestors who were merchants and guild-brethren of Inverness. The principal source of their wealth was a commerce in corn and skins. The corn and malting trade was brought to a considerable height. The greater part of the town consisted in kilns and granaries. The export trade was carried on chiefly with France, the northern countries, and Holland. All the home-consumption, likewise in malt, was supplied by them, that is, of Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, Sutherland, Caithness, the Western Isles, and the Orkneys; for the art of malt-making in these days was understood in this country chiefly by the corn merchants of Inverness. The skin trade, during the period under consideration, was singly of itself a source of great wealth. The people of all the extensive country and isles now mentioned resorted to Inverness, as the only or the most convenient market they then knew any thing of. In exchange for skins, they were supplied, some with meal, others malt, and all of them with dye-stuffs, salt, coarse linen, and iron. From the revolution to the year 1746, the borough of Inverness suffered a gradual decline; so that, at that time, and for several years after, the town appeared little better than the ruins of what it formerly was. In the centre of the town there were many ruinous houses; and in all the other

Inverness.

Inverness. parts of it, every second space, and that by far the larger, exhibited the ruin of a kiln, a granary, or other building. This decline had arisen from the same causes which ruined the trade of most of the old towns on the east of Scotland. After the union, the predominance of English capital, and the wars in which the nation was so frequently engaged with those states on the continent with whom the Scottish trade had been chiefly carried on, diverted it into other channels. The trade in skins had declined, because the merchants of Glasgow contrived to draw it from the east to the west coast; and to the Clyde, as a better market, the Highlanders began to find their way. As the rebellion in 1745 had been chiefly commenced by chiefs in the western part of this county, Inverness, and the chain of lakes proceeding westward from it, became the centre of all the military operations, in building forts, making roads, and other works carried on by government, for the permanent subjugation or civilization of the country. Hence this town, from that period, began to revive, from the circulation of money which took place in and around it, and manufactures and commerce were gradually restored. The principal manufactures in this place are hemp and flax. The first has been established near forty years; and at present employs, in spinning dressing, and weaving, above 1000 men, women, and children. The hemp is imported from the Baltic, and manufactured into sailcloth and sacking; in which state it is sent to various parts of Britain and the East and West Indies. The white thread manufacture has been established nearly twenty years. This business is said to employ, in all its branches, such as heckling, spinning, twisting, bleaching, and dyeing, no less than 10,000 individuals in the town and surrounding country. The company have, in this and the neighbouring counties, several agents, who manage the spinning departments. The flax is likewise

chiefly imported from the Baltic, and the greatest part of the thread sent to London; from whence it is dispersed to different parts of the world; the Inverness thread being very much esteemed. The cotton manufacture has likewise found its way here, and succeeds very well. Besides these, there is a considerable manufacture of tanned leather. This place possesses several advantages for manufactures. The raw material is easily imported, and the manufactured goods exported as readily. Labour is likewise cheap. The greatest obstacle is the dearness of fuel, coal being imported from England; though it is by no means improbable, from the appearance of the country, that this useful mineral might be found in the neighbourhood, if some of the proprietors would risk a little in making proper trials, or allow these to be made by wealthy and public-spirited individuals. The situation of the town is on a plain between the Moray Frith and the river Ness. Ships of four or five hundred tons can ride at anchor within a mile of it; and at spring tides vessels of half that burthen can come up to the quay close to the town. The greatest number of vessels belonging to Inverness are employed in carrying to London the produce of the manufactures, the fish caught in the river Ness, and the skins of otters, rabbits, hares, foxes, goats, roes, &c. They bring back, in return, materials both for use and luxury; particularly hardware and haberdashery; for the retailing of which, as well as the wholesale business, there are some excellent shops in Inverness, that supply the very extensive district of which it is the capital. A superb harbour or bason has been constructed here for vessels sailing across the island by the Caledonian Canal now forming. In ancient times there was annually exported from Inverness a ship's cargo of juniper berries, which were sent to Holland for the manufacture of gin. Inverness-shire seems History.

Dialect. the native country of the juniper tree, which on the mountains adjoining to the great chain of lakes, and in Strathspey, grows to great strength and size, and is not a dwarfish bush, as elsewhere.

Dialect. English and Gaelic are here spoken promiscuously. Though the language of the country people is in general Gaelic, yet, in the town and immediate vicinity of Inverness, it has long been remarked by all travellers from the south, that the English tongue is spoken with very great purity, both in respect to pronunciation and grammar. This may be owing to two causes. In the first place, it is not the mother tongue, but is learned, not from common conversation, but by book, as we learn Greek and Latin; and, secondly, the garrison of English soldiers, which have been in the neighbourhood since the time of Cromwell, have in a great measure regulated the pronunciation. There is likewise comparatively little communication between this country and the Lowlands of Scotland; so that the phrases and pronunciation of the latter are little known.

Old forts. A few years ago, on the western extremity of the hill, overlooking the town, were the ruins of one of Oliver Cromwell's forts, and of a castle supposed to have been built by Malcolm Canmore; but these have been razed to the foundation, and the ground cultivated. Near the

Hill of Fairies. town, on the west side, is Tmona-heurich, the "Hill of Fairies," a beautiful insulated hill covered with trees. It is of a singular shape, nearly resembling a ship with her keel uppermost. Its base is a parallelogram, the length of which is 1984 and the breadth 176 feet, from which it rises to the height of 250 feet above the level of the river. From the summit, which is quite flat, is a very fine view of the town of Inverness and the adjacent country. This hill is about half a mile distant from Inverness. About a mile farther from the town is another hill, much higher, rugged and steep, called Craig Phatric.

Forts.

Craig Phatric vitrified.

The elevation of its highest part above the bed of the river is no less than 1150 feet. The hill is ascended by a winding road, which has evidently been formed out of the rock by art; and from the summit there is a fine view of the sea-coast. The top of Craig Phatric is flat, and has been surrounded by a wall in the form of a parallelogram, the length of which is about eighty yards and the breadth thirty within the wall. The most curious circumstance attending it is, that the stones are all firmly connected together by a kind of vitrified matter like lava, or like the flag or scoriæ of an iron foundery; and the stones themselves, in many places, seem to have been softened and vitrified. The greatest part of the rampart is now covered with turf, so that it has the appearance of an earthen mound; but on removing the earth, the vitrified matter is every where visible, and would seem to have been in some places of considerable height. On the outside appears to have been a second kind of rampart, but not so regular as the first. Considerable masses of vitrified matter are likewise found in this second rampart, under which is the natural rock, chiefly granite, with some breccia or puddingstone here and there, composed of red granite, pebbles, quartz, &c. in a cement of clay and quartose matter. In many parts of the wall, the stones are entirely melted or vitrified; others, on the contrary, in which the fusion has not been so complete, are sunk into the vitrified matter, in such a manner as to be nearly buried in it, or inclosed by it. Within the area is a hollow, which was formerly a well, but has been filled up to prevent sheep falling into it. We formerly stated the various opinions which have been formed by antiquarians about vitrified forts, and shall not here repeat them.

The chain of forts along the chain of lochs, which in

Forts. Chain of forts. Fort George.

the centre of Inverness-shire cross the island, has already been noticed. Fort George is placed at the eastern extremity; Fort William at the west; and Fort Augustus in the middle, at the head of Loch Ness. Fort George is placed opposite to Fortrose, upon a neck of land, which, advancing into the Moray Frith, contracts it into a narrow strait. As the Frith, after widening, again contracts at Inverness, government proposed to build the fort there, at the place, already noticed, called the Citadel or Cromwell's Fort; but the magistrates of Inverness demanded such a price for the ground, that the Duke of Cumberland was offended, and ordered an inspection of the ground whereon it now stands to be made by some engineers, who reported that it would answer equally well with that at Inverness. Accordingly government purchased the ground, and a large farm in the neighbourhood of it, from Mr Campbell of Calder. The work commenced in the year 1747, under the direction of General Skinner. The estimate given in was L.120,000; but it is said to have cost upwards of L.160,000. It is a most regular fortification, and covers ten Scottish acres. It does not appear to have had any considerable influence on the state of society in the country around. The market, however, which it has opened for several productions of the country renders it an object of some consideration.

Fort Augustus.

Fort Augustus, at the west end of Loch Ness, stands on a plain, having the river Tarff on the south-east, and the Oich on the west. It is a regular fortification, with four bastions, and barracks capable of accommodating 400 soldiers, with proper lodgings for the officers. It is a very neat-looking place; and a surrounding plantation gives it very much the appearance of an English country-seat. It is garrisoned by invalids, and supplied with provisions from Inverness by a sloop of sixty tons. Though the fortification is in good repair, it is by no means a place of

strength, being commanded by the surrounding hills almost on every side. It was taken by the rebels in the year 1746, but was deserted by them after demolishing what they could. Forts.

At the eastern extremity of Linnhe Loch, where it turns northward to form Lochiel, stands Fort William. The fort is of a triangular form, with two bastions. It has fifteen twelve-pounders, some mortars, and a considerable armoury. It was built during the usurpation of Cromwell, by the advice and direction of General Monk, and occupied much more ground at that time than it does at present, containing no fewer than 2000 effective troops. Colonel Bryan was the first governor, and the fort was then distinguished by the name of the "Garrison of Inverlochy." In the time of King William it was rebuilt on a less scale, with stone and lime instead of earth. In the year 1746 it stood a siege of five weeks, which commenced on the 24th February, and was raised on the 3d of April following, with the loss to the garrison of only six men killed and twenty-four wounded. It is, however, by no means a place of strength, and for several years past has been garrisoned only by a few invalids. Some time ago, about a fourth part of the wall was undermined and swept away by the river Nevis, which runs by it. It has ever since been going to ruin, and there seems little probability of its being repaired. The history of the original construction of this fort deserves to be remembered. During the usurpation of Cromwell many of the Highland chiefs continued faithfully attached to the royal cause. These, however, one after another, made their peace with General Monk, excepting Sir Ewan Cameron of Lochiel, whom no entreaties could induce to abandon the cause of of his king. Monk left no method unattempted to bribe him into submission, and held out proposals so very flattering, that he was importuned by many of his friends to Fort William.

Forts.

accept of them, but he despised them all, and scorned to submit. Monk finding all his attempts ineffectual, resolved to plant this garrison, in order to keep the chief and his dependants in awe. Sir Ewan being informed of this design, thought the best plan would be to attack the enemy on their march from Inverness, as he imagined they would come from thence to erect the fort; but they arrived suddenly by sea, and disconcerted all his measures. They brought with them such plenty of materials, and were in the vicinity of so much wood, that within one day after their landing, the fort was erected, and the troops secured from danger. The laird of Lochiel saw all their motions from a neighbouring eminence; and finding it impracticable to attack them with any probability of success, retired to a wood on the north side of Lochiel, called Achadallen, from whence he had a good view of his enemy at Inverlochy. He dismissed his followers to remove their cattle farther from the enemy, and to furnish themselves with provisions, excepting thirty-eight chosen men, whom he kept as a guard. He had also spies about the garrison, who informed him of all their transactions. Five days after their arrival at Inverlochy, the governor dispatched three hundred of his men in two vessels, which were to sail northward, and anchor on each side of the shore near Achadallen. Lochiel being informed that their design was to cut down his wood and carry away his cattle, was determined to make them pay dear for every tree and bullock's hide. Favoured by the woods, he came pretty close to the shore, where he saw their motions so distinctly that he counted them as they came out of the ship, and found that the armed men exceeded one hundred and forty, besides a number of workmen, with axes and other instruments. Having fully satisfied himself in this respect, he returned to his friends, and called a council of war. The younger part of them were eager for an attack, but the

Battle of the Camerons and the English.

elder and more experienced remonstrated against it, as a very rash and hazardous enterprise. Lochiel then asked two of the party, who had served him in several sharp actions, if ever they saw him engage on terms so disadvantageous? They declared they never did. Animated by the ardour of youth, for he was then very young, he insisted, in a short but spirited speech, that if they had any regard for their king, their chief, or their own honour, they would attack the English; "for," says he, "if every one kills his man, which I hope you will, I will answer for the rest." Upon this they cheerfully consented; but requested that he and his younger brother Allan would stand at a distance from the danger. Lochiel could not hear, with any patience, this proposal with regard to himself, but commanded his brother, who was equally anxious to share the danger, to be bound to a tree, leaving a little boy to attend him; but he soon prevailed on the boy, by threats and entreaties, to disengage him, and ran to the conflict. The Camerons, being somewhat more than thirty in number, armed partly with muskets and partly with bows, kept their pieces and arrows till their very muzzles and points touched the breasts of their enemies. The very first fire killed about thirty. They immediately took their broad swords, and laid about with incredible fury. The English defended themselves with their muskets and bayonets with great bravery, but to little purpose. The combat was long and obstinate. At last the English gave way, and retreated towards the ship, with their faces towards the enemy, fighting with astonishing resolution. Lochiel, to prevent their flight, ordered two or three of his men to run before, and from behind a bush, to make a noise as if there was another party of Highlanders stationed to intercept their retreat. This took so effectually that they stopt, and animated by rage, madness, and despair, renewed the fight with great-

Forts.

Forts. er fury than ever, and wanted nothing but proper arms to make Lochiel repent of this stratagem. They were at last, however, forced to give way, and betake themselves to their heels. The Camerons pursued them chin-deep into the sea. Of the English one hundred and thirty-eight were found dead, while Lochiel only lost five men. In this engagement Locheil himself had several wonderful escapes. In the retreat of the English, one of the strongest and bravest of the officers retired behind a bush, where he observed Locheil pursuing alone, and darting upon him, thought himself secure of his prey. They met with equal fury; the combat was long doubtful. The English officer had by far the advantage in strength and size, but Lochiel exceeded him in nimbleness and activity, and forced the sword out of his hand, upon which his antagonist flew upon him like a tiger; they closed and wrestled till both fell on the ground in each other's arms. The English officer got above Lochiel, and pressed him hard; but stretching forth his neck, and attempting to disengage himself, Locheil, who by this time had his hands at liberty, with his left hand seized him by the collar, and jumping at his extended throat, bit it with his teeth quite through, bringing away his mouthful, which he afterwards said was the sweetest bit he ever had in his life. Immediately after this encounter, when continuing the pursuit, he found his men chin-deep in the sea. He quickly followed them, and observing a man on the deck aiming his piece at him, plunged into the sea, and escaped so narrowly, that the hair on the back-part of his head was cut, and a little of the skin taken off. Soon afterwards, a similar attempt was made to shoot him, when his foster-brother threw himself before him, and received the shot in his breast, preferring the life of his chief to his own. It this way did the bold and resolute chief harass the new garrison in his neighbourhood, making them often pay dear

for their depredations; till at last, finding his country impoverished, and his people almost ruined, he listened to the repeated solicitations which were made to him, and submitted on terms of his own dictating. Monk immediately wrote him a letter of thanks, which was dated at Dalkeith the 5th of June 1655. Villages.

The village of Maryburgh or Gordonsburgh is situated upon the sea-shore, upon the south side of Lochiel, within a few yards to the south-west of Fort William. There was a village here before the fort was built. It was called Auchintore-beg. It stood on the spot where the esplanade is now placed. After the accession of the Prince of Orange to the British throne, it received the name of Maryburgh, in honour of his queen. Of late it is frequently called Gordonsburgh, from the family to which it belongs. It is an inconsiderable place, containing some few tolerable houses, but the greater number seem very poor habitations. The number of inhabitants is about five hundred, most of whom have scarcely any employment except the herring fishery, which is here of no great importance. This place, however, is now a great market for wool. Many of the English manufacturers send agents or their junior partners hither to purchase this commodity, which they send immediately by sea to Liverpool and other ports. The communication from thence to the sea by Loch Linnhe is very good. Ships of any size can come up to Fort William. Here is likewise plenty of peat for fuel; and coals might be imported sufficiently cheap. Fish of various kinds are plentiful, particularly herrings, haddocks, whitings, salmon, &c. Maryburgh.

The village of Grantoun stands on the banks of the Spey, in the parish of Cromdale, in the south-eastern quarter of the county, where a part of Inverness-shire is interposed, as already mentioned, between the counties of Moray and Banff. It deserves notice chiefly as an exam- Grantoun.

Villages. ple of public spirit, on the part of a great Highland family, in endeavouring, by the establishment of a village, to afford a permanent settlement to their ancient dependants, without driving them from the country, after it has been found beneficial to enlarge the farms as much as possible. About thirty years ago the spot where this village stands was a barren heath, accounted altogether unimprovable; it now contains nearly six hundred inhabitants, including all sorts of tradesmen, such as shoemakers, weavers of wool, linen, and stockings, blacksmiths, wrights, masons, shopkeepers, brewers, and bakers. The village stands on the great road along the Spey, and a bridge is thrown over the river at no great distance from the town. The village is neatly built, and contains an elegant town-house and a prison. Sir James Grant, the superior, and head of the great clan of that name, upon whose property it has been reared, has been anxious to introduce several manufactures into it, which promise to prove successful. An extensive manufactory for carding and spinning wool, and making blankets and woollen cloths, has recently been established. Sir James Grant has established a school, in which, besides the English language, Latin and French are taught. The teacher enjoys what is accounted a liberal salary, independent of the fees from his scholars. The salary consists of L.10, being mortified money allotted by the presbytery of the bounds for this object; L.10 given by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and L.10 annually given by Sir James Grant himself. As we formerly noticed, it is by means of the intelligence derived from cheap education, that Scotland, during these last thirty years, has been able to make such rapid progress in agriculture, and in all the useful arts, and that the natives of the country have at all times been enabled to distinguish themselves in the public service of the state, or to become the most active instruments in the great cities, and in all

the distant colonies of the empire, in augmenting the commerce and riches of the nation. Antiquities.

This county contains considerable remains of antiquity. At the same time, it may be remarked, that Highland antiquities, so far as regards buildings, are less connected with general history, and therefore less instructive, than similar objects in the low country. The great theatre of the contest for national independence always lay in the south; and as the country was there less rugged, it was more necessary for the chiefs to fortify themselves within strong castles, and all the inferior gentry had strong towers. In the Highlands, the terrific rudeness of the country, intersected by mountains, lakes, arms of the sea, and forests, conferred upon every chief a considerable degree of safety, independent of the walls of a fortress. In the low country, also, were the most numerous ecclesiastical establishments; a circumstance which naturally arose from the superior fertility of the territory.

There are two rocks of the same name, one at each extremity of the country called Strathspey, about thirty miles distant from each other. Each of these rocks is called *Craig Elachie*,, "Rock of Alarm." Upon the approach of an enemy, the signal was given from the one to the other, for all fit to bear arms to appear at an appointed place. Hence the Grants motto, "Stand fast," *Craig Elachie*. Craig Elachie.

In the parish of Kilmanavaig is the ruined Castle of Inverlochy. There was at one time a thriving borough of the same name adjacent to this building, which some of the old Scottish historians call the emporium of the west of Scotland; but of this borough there are now no other vestiges than some pavement in different places, which were probably the streets of it. The castle has survived the borough, and now stands alone in ancient magnificence, after having seen the river Lochie, that formerly filled its Inverlochy Castle.

Antiquities. ditches, run in another course, and outlived all history and all tradition of its own builder and age. It is a quadrangular building, with round towers at the angles, measuring thirty yards every way within the walls. The towers and ramparts are solidly built of stone and lime, nine feet thick at the bottom, and drawing in to the thickness of eight feet above. As to the height of the towers, they are not so entire as to show what it was; nor were they all equally high, as it is probable they were all on a level at top, and standing upon uneven ground. The western tower, which stood on the lowest foundation, is the highest of them all, and the largest every way. It does not seem to have been less than fifty feet when it was all entire; and the rest of the towers may probably have been about forty feet in height. The rampart between them seems to have been uncovered; but all the towers were probably roofed, by placing some cover above a joisting of beams of wood, for which there are still remaining some square openings in the walls at the top, as well as below that for the floors of the first and second stories. Ten or twelve yards without the walls, the ditch begins which surrounded the castle. It is from thirty to forty feet broad, and was filled with water from the river. The whole building, including the towers, covers about 1600 yards, and within the outside of the ditch are 7000 square yards, which is nearly an acre and a half of English measure. At the great gate, between the south and east towers, there are some remains of a building for the drawbridge. The gate is nine feet wide, and arched to the same height, with abutments of fourteen feet at each side to strengthen it within. There was also another gate directly opposite to this one, of nearly the same size, which probably might answer as a water-gate, and lead into the river. Besides these two principal entries, three of the towers were provided with sally ports; one from each tower, well contrived, and close to

the arrow-holes, which also flanked and defended them. Antiquities.
To the lowest story of each tower there is a door leading in from the inner area of the castle, and a winding stair up to the second story through the heart of the wall. From the second story there is also a door on each side of every tower, leading up to the top of the rampart, a curtain-wall between the towers. This wall had a parapet of stone, two feet thick, inside and outside, between which the troops might stand in security, and defend themselves with missile weapons from the top of it. The whole was evidently defended by arrows. Every tower is built with loop-holes on each side of it, so contrived as to flank the whole curtain of the rampart as far as the next tower. These arrow-holes, or perpendicular slits in the walls, are well contrived to allow the archers a free aim, and defend them, at the same time, from any weapons from without. The western tower, which is always called the *Cummings Tower*, is forty-two feet diameter over walls, and twenty-four feet within them. In the lower story of it we find three arrow-holes; in the second story four; and in the third story eight or nine; all of them faced with free-stone, two inches and a half wide on the outside, and extending to the breadth of seven feet within, and six feet high. There is a chimney in the middle story of each tower, large, and running through the wall obliquely; and also a winding opening to the inner court of the building, and a door on each side leading to the top of the adjoining walls, by means of which all the towers and ramparts could easily communicate with one another. The middle story of each tower seems to have been allotted for the principal people to occupy, as it was furnished with a spacious window and a chimney; but the lower stories had no light except what came in by the arrow-holes, unless the door was open which led into the

Antiquities. inner court. The whole building, ramparts and towers, would require from five hundred to six hundred men to defend it, besides reserves; but the number of troops that might occupy it cannot be exactly known, as the curtains of the ramparts, outside and inside, are perforated in many places, probably for beams of wood, to form a shade under which men or cattle might lodge in safety. From the name of the Western Tower, it is probable that the castle was occupied by the Cummings in the time of James the First of Scotland, when they were most powerful; and previous to that period by the thanes of Lochaber; among others, by the noted Bancho, predecessor of the race of Stuart. There is a a tradition that this castle was once a royal residence; and that the famous league betwixt Charles the Great of France and Achaius King of Scots, had been signed there, on the part of the Scottish monarch, about the last years of the eighth century.

Dundhairdghall Castle. Dundhairdghall stands upon the very summit of a green hill, about 400 yards perpendicular in height. The traces of the building are still visible; and the part now remaining runs round the whole top of the hill (the compass of which is 150 yards), not in any regular form, but following exactly the verge of the steep, so as to command the greatest strength possible. The figure is nearly oval. By its situation upon this elevated spot, it commands part of Mamore, and the whole of Glen Nevis, and must have been originally intended for a place of defence. This opinion seems to be confirmed by the size of the work, and by its being in sight of the Castle of Inverlochy. Dundhairdghall appears to have been a fort of great antiquity, and not inferior in this respect to Inverlochy Castle. Indeed, of the two it seems the more ancient. It is thought to have served as an outwork for strengthening that place when it was a royal residence. The part of the hall that

remains is no more than from two to four feet high, and is vitrified all round. Antiquities.

Upon the banks of the river Lochie, on the north side, about four miles above Fort William, there are the remains of an ancient castle, concerning which the Manuscript History of the House of Lochiel says, "that it was built by the chief of that family in the reign of Queen Mary." The probability is, however, that it is of a much more ancient date; and the tradition of the country is, that it was built at the same time with the Castle of Inverness. An additional probability of its being built long before the reign of the unfortunate Mary, is, that Bancho Thane of Lochaber (the ancestor of the royal house of Stuart) had his castle, as already noticed, in this neighbourhood; and a little below the site of Fore Castle there is a most beautiful walk, about a quarter of a mile long, that still retains his name. Along this sweet walk, on the one hand, flows the Lochie; on the other, there is a delightful bank, which is at present planted with fir, and which was then undoubtedly covered with stately wood. There is still remaining of this building a wall of forty or fifty feet, and a vault almost entire, which could be converted into an excellent cellar. Of old, when fire-arms were unknown, it certainly was a very strong place. It stands on the brink of a frightful precipice, at the bottom of which the river forces its passage through rocks, and has been secured on the land-side by a ditch and draw-bridge. The traces of the ditch are still visible.

The Castle of Urquhart, now fallen into decay, stands on a rocky promontory on the west side of Loch Ness, in a pleasant and romantic situation, commanding a most agreeable view of Loch Ness, almost from the one end of it, at Fort Augustus, to the other at Bona; and also of the lands, woods, and hills surrounding the loch on the south-east and north. The loch washes the east wall of Urquhart Castle.

Antiquities.

it; and the other three sides were fortified with a strong rampart, a ditch, and drawbridge. Within the walls were buildings and accommodation for 500 or 600 men. This castle was a royal fort, and was granted by King James the Fourth, in 1509, with the estate and lordship of Urquhart, to the laird of Grant, in whose family they still continue. For some time before this grant was made, the lairds of Grant possessed the castle and lands of Urquhart as the king's chamberlains. Abercromby the historian says, that King Edward the First of England reduced this fort in 1303, and basely put to the sword Alexander Bois, the governor, and his garrison, who had bravely defended it. In 1334, the same author says, that Robert Lauder, governor of this fort, maintained it against the English, then in the cause of Edward Baliol.

Druidical temples.

In different parts of the county are to be seen remains of Druidical temples. At Corymony, in the northern part of Inverness-shire, is one in which the middle of the circle is occupied by a cairn of loose stones, on the summit of which is one very large stone. In the southern parts of the county, also, such temples are found. Sometimes each great standing stone is supported by two other large stones buried under ground; so that, where there is a single circle above, there is a double one under ground; but this only occurs where such works have been placed upon a soft soil.

Priory of Beauly.

In the parish of Kilmorack are the ruins of the ancient priory of Beauly. It was founded in the year 1230 by James Bisset of Lovat. The charter granted by him is confirmed by Pope Gregory the Third, at Rome, in the fourth year of his pontificate.

Watch-towers.

The remains of old watch-towers, or very small fortresses, are to be seen on the summits of many of the mountains. The inhabitants of these, on occasions of

alarm, anciently kindled fires to give notice of danger to the neighbourhood; but as they do not appear to have been places of permanent residence by any of the chiefs, no history exists concerning them. In the parish of Laggan, from which the Spey descends eastward to the German Ocean at the Moray Frith, the Spean descends to the Atlantic by Fort William; and from the neighbourhood of which the waters of Loch Erich fall southward into the Tay, is a rock, which is upwards of 100 yards perpendicular height. It is of such difficult access, that it might be supposed capable of becoming a residence only for the towering eagle; yet on the very summit are a considerable remains of a fortification. The wall is built of great broad stones without mortar, and is upwards of fifteen feet in thickness. The area is about 500 feet in length and 250 in breadth. At the east end of Loch Laggan stand the remains of an old church, dedicated to St Kenneth, surrounded by a burying ground, which is still used. In the middle of Coil More, the great wood on the south side of the loch, is a place called *Aist Merigie*, or "the height on which a standard was wont to be erected." Here is a place held sacred by the most remote antiquity, and said to be the burial-place of seven kings of the ancient Caledonians. It should appear, from popular tradition, that these kings, or eminent warriors, lived about the period when the Scots were driven by the Picts beyond the Tay, and had their seat of government at Dunkeld. It likewise appears that of old this was a famous place for hunting; and indeed it continued to abound in deer and roes, till very lately, that the introduction of sheep, with which these animals never mingle, has driven them away. It is said that the kings came always with their retinue and hounds to hunt for the most part of the summer on the banks of this loch and in the neighbourhood. In the

Antiquities.

Lofty fortress.

Antiquities. middle of the loch are two islands, one of them much less than the other. On the larger are the side-walls, still remaining, of a very ancient building, made of common round stones, but cemented with mortar. This is said to be the place where the kings retired from hunting, and feasted on their game. In the neighbouring island, which is called *Ellan-u'-Cone*, or the "Island of Dogs," and said to be the place where their hounds were confined, is also a wall of a similar building.

The Clan Chattan. In times of feudal anarchy in the Highlands, in which every glen was a monarchy liable to be invaded and conquered, according to the laudable usage among independent states in all parts of the world, it necessarily happened that important revolutions often occurred. A chief, possessed of superior military talents, was sometimes able to conquer several of his neighbours, and thereby to disturb the balance of power. He often endeavoured to confirm his right by obtaining a charter from the Scottish monarchs, which seems to have been easily obtained. If his immediate successor was also a renowned warrior, the family became established, and was a powerful and dangerous neighbour, against which the weaker clans found it necessary to associate, to secure their independence. It appears, that in the eastern part of Inverness-shire, and in the counties of Moray and Banff, an association, consisting of no less than sixteen tribes of different names, existed for ages. They called themselves the *Clan Chattan*. The lairds of M'Intosh in succession were long hereditary captains or chiefs of the Clan Chattan. They had their residence in the parish and lake of Moy. The ancient name of Moy is *Star-sach-na-Gal*, i. e. "the Threshold of the Gaels or Highlanders;" being the pass by which the Highlanders entered to the low country. It is so narrow between high mountains, that a few men could defend it

against numbers. It was of great consequence to the proprietor in these times, as he could make inroads into the low country, and easily prevent any pursuit beyond that pass. He could likewise hinder any of the neighbouring clans from passing this place without his consent. So sensible were they of their dependence on him upon this account, that they agreed to pay him a certain tax as often as he gave them permission to take this road with their booty; which tax is still known by the name of *Stuic-chriach*, i. e. "the steak or collop of the booty," expressive of the quality of the plunder, which was cattle. Loch Moy, the ancient residence of M'Intosh, is a small lake, whose banks are beautifully wooded. Its length is nearly two miles, and its breadth about three quarters of a mile. Near the middle is an island, containing about two acres of ground, on the south end of which are the remains of a place of strength. It appears, from an inscription over the gate, to have been built in the year 1665 by Lachlan the twentieth laird of M'Intosh. Adjoining this house was a garden, which still contains some fruit trees. From the ruins yet remaining, it would appear that there have been formerly very extensive buildings on this island. The remains of a street running the whole length of the island, with the foundation of houses on each side, are still very visible; and in the year 1760 two ovens were discovered, each capable of containing four bushels of meal made into bread. In 1422 this place contained a garrison of 400 men. At the distance of about 200 yards from this is an artificial island, which has been formed by heaping a parcel of large round stones upon each other. This was used as a place of confinement for malefactors before the abolition of the judicial power of the chiefs. It is so very little raised, that when the lake was low the criminal could just stand with dry feet; but

Antiquities.

Loch Moy, the residence of M'Intosh.

Antiquities. after rains the water rose to his middle. This place is still called *Ellan-na-glach*, or the "Stony Island"

The present laird of M'Intosh has a good house, pleasantly situated, at the head of the lake. This estate came into the possession of William, the seventh laird of M'Intosh, in the year 1336, being conveyed to him by David bishop of Moray. The Clan Chattan, as already noticed, was a very ancient and powerful clan, consisting originally of sixteen tribes, each having their own chieftain, but all voluntarily united under the government of one leader, of whom the present laird of M'Intosh is the representative. Here is preserved the sword of King James the Fifth, given by that monarch to the captain of Clan Chattan, with the privilege of bearing the king's sword. On the blade is the word "Jesus." It was consecrated and sent to James by Pope Leo the Tenth. As an example of the ancient causes of warfare in the Highlands, we may take notice of the following contest, which occurred in the neighbourhood of Loch Moy, and which is thus related in the History of the Feuds and Conflicts of the Clans: "About the year of God 1341, John Munro, tutor of Foulis, travelling homewards, on his journey from the south of Scotland towards Ross, did repose himself by the way in Strathardle, betwixt St Johnstoun and Athole, where he fell at variance with the inhabitants of that country, who abused him, which he determined to revenge afterward. Being come to Ross, he gathered together his whole kinsmen, neighbours, and followers, and declared unto them how he had been used, and craves their aid to revenge himself, whereunto they yield. Thereupon he singled out 350 of the strongest and ablest men amongst them, and so went to Strathardle, which he wasted and spoiled, killed some of the people, and carried away their cattle. In his return home (as he was passing by the Isle of Moy with his

prey), M'Intosh, chieftain of the Clan Chattan, sent to him craving a part of the spoil, challenging the same as due to him by custom. John Monro offered to M'Intosh a reasonable portion, which he refused to accept, and would have no less than the half of the whole spoil, whereunto John would not yield: so M'Intosh convening his forces with all diligence, he followed John Monro and overtook him at Clagh-na-hercy, beside Kessack, within one mile of Inverness. John perceiving them coming, sent fifty of his men to Ferrendonnel with the spoil, and encouraged the rest of his men to fight; so there ensued a cruel conflict, when M'Intosh was slain, with most part of his company. Divers of the Monros were also killed, and John Monro left as dead on the field; but after all was appeased, he was taken up by some of the people thereabout, who carried him to their houses, where he recovered of his wounds, and was afterwards called *John Back-lauighe*, because he was mutilate of an hand." Antiquities.

In the parish of Ardersier, on the borders of Nairn, is a stone six feet high and three broad. This stone, in the Gaelic language, obtains the name of *Cloach-no-cabbac*; in the English, or rather Scotch, "Cabbac Stone." Kebbac or cabbac signifies a cheese. The report of tradition is, that it was erected there over a chieftain who fell in a battle which originated about a cheese in the town of Inverness. The death of one of the chiefs, at the spot where the stone is erected, put an end to the battle. This story is told by the oldest people in the country, and obtains credit. Cabbac Stone.

In the parish of Petty are two earthen mounds; one of them close by the churchyard, and the other about 200 yards west from it. They are evidently artificial, the outside being sod or turf, inclosing sand or light earth. They appear to have been exactly circular, contracted a little as they ascend, and quite level on the top. The cir- Circular mounds.

Antiquities. cumference at the bottom is 150 feet, at the top 120, and the height is 42. The tradition concerning them is, that they were places for administering justice; so their name imports; for they are called *Tom-inbe'it*, i. e. "the Court-hill." In the same parish is a great old house, called Castle Stewart, in ruins. It belongs to the Earl of Moray. Around it is a great garden and orchard sheltered by forest trees. The orchard contains a great number of large old trees, bearing the species of small cherry called black and red geens. These geen trees were sent hither from Kent, about a century ago, by Alexander Earl of Moray. On the Spey, on the borders of Banffshire and Morayshire, is the valley called the Haughs of Cromdale, well known over all Scotland by means of a song written in consequence of a battle, in 1690, between the adherents of King William and a party of the supporters of the House of Stuart.

Culloden Moor and battle. But the most noted spot in this county is that on its eastern corner, near the Moray Frith, called Culloden Moor, where the battle was fought which put an end to the rebellion in 1745. This rebellion was chiefly singular on account of the confusion and alarm which it occasioned throughout the island, when compared with the strength engaged in it. The great chiefs of the Highlands stood almost entirely aloof, such as Grant, Gordon, M'Kenzie, and M'Donald; and the Campbells and others were most zealous against it: only a few gentlemen, the rental of whose estates amounted to no more than L.12,000 *per annum*, interfered. It is to be observed, however, that these estates now produce L.80,000 *per annum*. This difference is not merely to be ascribed to the alteration of the value of money, but to the circumstance, that the farms are now let more nearly at rack-rent; whereas, in these times, every chieftain, depending for his safety upon the strength of his clan, was rather a political head or prince,

who derived a revenue or land-tax from his territory, than a proprietor, who endeavoured to obtain from the soil whatever the highest bidder would give. Charles Stuart had arrived in Scotland in very desperate circumstances, and Cameron of Lochiel, his most strenuous supporter, had anxiously in vain endeavoured to dissuade him from an enterprise which must end in the ruin of all his adherents. After the British government had drawn supplies of troops from the continent of Europe, and the rebels, after the battle of Falkirk, found it necessary to retreat to the north, they were followed by an army under the Duke of Cumberland to this quarter. Prince Charles Stuart, on the evening before the engagement, lodged with his principal officers in Culloden House. For some time before, dissensions had broke out in his army, private quarrels distracted his officers, and a great want of discipline prevailed. The rebels had formed a project to surprise the Duke of Cumberland, and fatigued their army by a night-march through bad ways; at the end of which they found they had arrived too late at the place of their destination, and were under the necessity of returning to their former station. It was between five and six in the morning when they got back to Culloden, fatigued and famished. The men had received no pay for a month, and on the preceding day they had only one biscuit each man. The night-march backwards and forwards had made matters worse, which were bad before. Many of the private men lay down to sleep, and no small number of them made the best of their way to Inverness to seek provisions. In the mean time, notice arrived that the Duke of Cumberland's army was approaching. The numbers of the Highlanders, by their own account, were stated at 5000. The royal army amounted to 8811. The rebels drew up their army on Culloden Moor. They had some four-pounders, with

Antiquities.

Antiquities. which, from behind a park on the right, they began about two o'clock to cannonade the Duke's army; but their artillery, if it deserved that name, was so very insignificant and ill served, that it did little execution; while the fire from their enemies was severely felt, and occasioned great disorder. Impatient of this fire, their front line advanced to the attack, and about 500 Highlanders charged the Duke's right wing with the greatest impetuosity. One regiment was disordered by the weight of this column; but two battalions advancing from the second line, soon stopped their career. Finding themselves thus disappointed, they turned their whole force on the left, endeavouring to flank the front line. This design was also defeated by the advancing of Wolfe's regiment, while, in the mean time, the cannon kept playing on them with cartridge-shot. General Hawley, assisted by some Highlanders, had opened a passage through the park-wall on the right, through which the horse on the left of the royal army advanced; while the horse on the right, turning the opposite way, dispersed the pretender's corps of reserve, and met those who had come through the wall in the centre. These jointly attacked the front line of the rebels in the rear, which, being repulsed in front, fell into great confusion. A dreadful carnage was made by the cavalry on their backs; notwithstanding which, some part of the foot still preserved their ground; but Kingston's horse, from the reserve, galloping up briskly and charging them, did terrible execution. In a very short time they were totally defeated, and the field covered with the slain. Of the rebels about 2500 were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners, while the royal army only lost about 200 men. During the engagement, the French piquets, who were stationed on the right, did not fire a single shot, but stood perfectly inactive, and afterwards surrendered themselves

prisoners of war. An entire body of the clans marched off the field in order, at the beginning, with their pipes playing. Several green elevated spots still mark on the field the places where the bodies of the slain were buried. Antiquities.

Prince Charles, the son of the pretender, who had raised and conducted this rebellion, was forced from the field of battle by some of his officers. Finding himself pursued, he took to the mountains, and for several days wandered about the country. Sometimes unattended, he found refuge in caves and cottages; sometimes he lay in forests, with one or two companions of his distress, constantly pursued by the troops of the conqueror, who had offered a reward of L. 30,000 for taking him dead or alive. He had occasion, in the course of his concealments, to trust his life to above fifty individuals, whose sense of honour, and veneration for his family, outweighed their avarice. A person of the name of M'Ian, to whose cottage he went, and on whose protection he threw himself, though no friend to his cause, watched over him with inviolable fidelity for weeks, and even robbed, at the risk of his life, for his support, at the very time that he and his family were in a state of starvation, and when he knew he could get an immense sum by betraying his guest. This poor man was afterwards executed for stealing a cow, in a very severe season, to keep his family from starving. A little before his execution, he took off his bonnet, and thanked God, that he had never betrayed a trust, never injured the poor, and never refused a share of what he had to the stranger and needy. This man certainly deserved a better fate; and the king was said to have declared, that had he known the circumstances in proper time, he would have put him in a situation in which he would not have been tempted to steal a cow for his subsistence. At last, after innumerable adventures, in Adventures of Prince Charles.

Antiquities.

the course of which he was at one time disguised as a lady's maid, Prince Charles obtained an opportunity of escaping, along with about one hundred of his friends, in a French privateer, which had been hired to receive them.

After the battle of Culloden no quarter was given by the royal army to the wounded and unarmed; and many were slain who had only been spectators of the combat. This might naturally be expected to occur in a civil war, in which the passions of the parties always rise into extreme intemperance; but the events which occurred after the day of battle must be ascribed, not to the army, but to the commander. The Duke of Cumberland appears to have been a prince of very ordinary or rather inferior talents, and totally destitute of magnanimity. Instead of distinguishing between the common people of the Highlands and their chiefs, whom they implicitly obeyed, or attempting to reconcile the people to the house of Hanover by a dignified clemency, he made war upon the cattle and the miserable cottages of the Highlanders. Parties of the military were sent into every district of the country, whose chiefs were believed to have been concerned in the rebellion, to burn, plunder, and lay waste the country; and these orders were completely carried into effect. The irruption of the Highlanders had at that time diffused a strange terror over the island; and the victory of Culloden gained in the south unbounded popularity to William Duke of Cumberland, and he was represented as a commander of wonderful capacity. The public were afterwards undeceived, when a French general, on the continent, by superior management, cooped him up in a corner at Closter Severn, where he had neither room to fight nor to fly, and, without a battle, was under the necessity of entering into a disgraceful capitulation, whereby he consented to evacuate the continent with his army, and left

Barbarous conduct of the royal general.

our ally, the celebrated Frederic of Prussia, at the mercy of his enemies. Antiquities.

Before quitting the antiquities of this county, it is proper to add, that in Badenoch, between the bridge of Spey and Pitmain, on a moor, the remains of a square encampment are to be seen. This has suggested the idea that the Romans had advanced into this mountainous district; a fact, so far as we know, not countenanced by history. It may be remarked, however, that in clearing some adjacent ground some years ago, an urn was found full of burnt ashes; a Roman tripod was also found concealed in a rock. How far these circumstances afford a sufficient presumption, that, either by the way of the Tay, the Tumble, and the Garry, or along the Spey, from the shire of Moray, the Romans had been able to push a body of troops into this elevated territory, we shall leave to the judgment of the learned antiquarian. We shall only remark, that a deception is apt to occur upon such questions, from supposing that moveable articles of Roman workmanship, found upon any spot, afford a decisive proof that the Romans had been there; because such articles may have been carried off as booty by the ancient Caledonians in their incursions into the Roman territory, and may have passed through different hands as curiosities. Neither is the urn in this case a decisive proof, unless it appear decidedly to be of a valuable manufacture; because urns of a coarse fabric have been often found under cairns, where there was no reason to suppose that they had been deposited by these foreign invaders. The square camp, however, affords a strong presumption of the presence of a Roman army. Supposed Roman camp.

The distinguished modern buildings in this county are by no means numerous, and are chiefly to be found at its north-eastern corner near the Moray Frith, which, as al- Modern mansions.

Modern Seats.

Kilravock, House, Cantray, Glengairy.

ready mentioned, has always formed a part of the Lowlands of Scotland. In the parish of Croy, near the river Nairn, is Kilravock. Here is an old tower, said to have been built in 1460; and an elegant modern house on a rock hanging over and washed by the Nairn. There are at this place gardens laid out with great taste; orchards stocked with fruit trees of various kinds; woods of considerable extent, both natural and planted: all which makes this the most beautiful place in this part of the country. A little above Kilravock lies Holme. It is a neat mansion house, beautifully situated on the banks of the river, with some natural wood and planting by it; and above that is Cantray, where a commodious house with offices has recently been built, and where the proprietor, Mr Davidson, has made great improvements, by planting, inclosing, and cultivating large tracts of moor ground; and where he has, at his own expence, built a bridge over the river, which is of great benefit to the public. On the shore of Loch Oich, in the interior of the county, is Glengairy, the seat of Mr M'Donald, almost surrounded with wood, and having an avenue of trees down to the lake. Near it are the ruins of Invergairy Castle, which was burnt during the rebellion in 1746. It has been a large building, and is now a very picturesque object.

Castle Grant.

But the most distinguished residence in this county is Castle Grant, the seat of Sir James Grant of Grant, Baronet. Castle Grant is beautifully situated on an eminence near the middle of the parish of Cromdale, on the north side of the Spey. The body of the house is four stories in height. Its northern front, which is of modern architecture, being a design of the celebrated Robert Adam, makes three sides of a quadrangle, having lower wings added to the length of the opposite sides. The

original front towards the south, which is an elegant specimen of the workmanship of the fifteenth century, is partly seen in the drawing herewith given. The accommodation consists of twenty excellent bed-chambers, exclusive of the public rooms, the ground floor, and the wings. The paintings in the dining-room, which is a magnificent hall, forty-seven by twenty-seven feet, but of a proportionable height, are, Modern Seats.

Portraits of Charles the First and of Queen Henrietta, both by Vandyke: The Virgin presenting her infant son in the temple, and offering her sacrifice; the aged Simeon elated with the sight of his infant Lord; both by Caracci: A full length of the Magdalen by Guido: The Marriage of Joseph and Mary; the Adoration of the Wise Men of the East; Henry the Fourth of France taking leave of his Queen; all by Reubens: Pigmalion and the Statue by Poussin: Ruins at Rome by Sanini: Two large landscapes, the Landing of Eneas in Africa, and Dido flying with Eneas from the Storm, both by Plymor: Family portraits by Kneller, West, Ramsay, Allan, and Miss Bird, &c.: And copies, by Clark at Rome, of portraits, &c. of Guercino, Caracci, Angelo. And the paintings in the drawing-room: A half-length Magdalene by Guido: Venus mourning for Adonis by Guercino: The celebrated painting, by Hamilton, of Achilles mourning over Patroclus, attended by the chiefs of Greece: Head of Achilles, by Hamilton: Eight small, but beautiful paintings in a frame, by Vandyke: Andromache offering Sacrifice to Hector's Shade, by Morrison: The Saviour on the Cross: Monks in a Cave: Copy of Guercino's Persian Sybil: And family portraits, &c.

The paintings in the different bed-chambers: Three Sea-pieces by Vandermore: The Holy Family, by Paragino: Two paintings of the Civil Wars, by Bargui-

Modern Seats.

seng: A Lady dressing, by Titian: Several portraits by Sir Peter Lely: Two portraits by Ponfract: Mars and Vulcan, an Italian drawing: The Resurrection of Lazarus: Adam and Eve: St Veronica: The Judgment of Paris: Niobe and her Children. In the hall or vestibule are upwards of thirty portraits, by Watt, of gentlemen of the name of Grant, most of them exhibiting a true likeness of the originals. In the staircase are Danae receiving the Shower of Gold, by Corregio: An Encampment, by Bassan: Venus and Adonis, by Clark, from Lucas Fardano: A Highlander and a Piper, descriptive of the ancient dress and the muscular strength of the inhabitants of Strathspey: An old Woman.

The house commands an extensive and noble landscape. Southward, at the distance of about seventeen miles, the lofty Cairngorum rears its summit to the height of 4060 feet. At its base, and partly upon its side, the forest of Abernethy is extended over a surface of 10,000 acres; and when the clouds (which often happens) descend on the sides of the mountain, leaving its summit visible, the scene is truly grand. Eastward lies the wide, bending, cultivated plain of Cromdale, intersected by the river Spey; and on the north and west, an irregularly curved range of hill displays the verdure of flourishing plantations. The park itself is of great extent, diversified with an agreeable variety of thicket, grove, and forest, corn field, and meadow. The territory occupied by the wood is nearly 4000 acres.

ISLANDS OF INVERNESS-SHIRE.

We are not certain that the island of St Kilda is arranged under any particular parish or county in Scotland; but as it has the greatest connection with the island of Harris, and belongs to the same proprietor, it may be here described under the head of Inverness-shire. St Kilda, or Hirta, is the most remote of the Scottish Western Isles, the nearest land to it being Harris, from which it is distant sixty miles in a west-south-west direction, and it is about one hundred and forty miles from the nearest point of the mainland of Scotland. It is about three miles long from east to west, two broad from north to south, and about nine and a half in circumference. The whole island is fenced about with one continued perpendicular face of rock of prodigious height, except a part of the bay or landing-place lying towards the south-east; and even there the rocks are of great height, and the narrow passage to the top of the rock is so steep, that a few men with stones could prevent any hostile multitude from landing on the island. The bay is also difficult of access, as the tides and waves are so impetuous, that unless in a calm it is extremely dangerous of approach. The surface of the island is rocky, rising into four high mountains, and covered, to the depth of sixteen or eighteen inches, with a blackish loam, except on the top of the hills, where is three feet depth of moss. The soil is well adapted for corn; but the natives prefer rearing of sheep and killing of wild fowl to the more toilsome bu- St Kilda.

St Kilda. siness of husbandry, and raise only a small quantity of corn around the village. The soil, though naturally poor, is, however, rendered extremely fertile by the singular industry of the inhabitants, who manure their fields so as to convert them into a sort of garden. All the instruments of agriculture they use, or indeed require, according to their system, is a spade, a mallet, and a rake or harrow. After turning up the ground with the spade, they rake it very carefully, removing every small stone, every noxious root or growing weed that falls in their way, and with the mallet pound down every stiff clod to dust; they then manure it with a rich compost prepared in the manner to be afterwards described. It is certain that a small number of acres prepared in this manner must yield a greater return than a much greater number poorly cultivated, as in the other Western Isles. The inhabitants of St Kilda sow and reap much earlier than others in the same latitude. The heat of the sun, reflected from the high hills upon the cultivated lands towards the south-east, is very great; and the climate being rainy, the corn grows fast and ripens early. The harvest is commonly over before September; and if it unfortunately happen otherwise, the whole crop is liable to be destroyed by the equinoctial storms, which in this island are attended with the most dreadful hurricanes and excessive rains. Barley and oats only are sown; and of the former about fifty bolls are generally brought every year to Harris: the grain is of a very superior quality to that produced in the other Western Isles. Potatoes have been lately introduced, and cabbages and other garden plants are only begun to be used. There are several springs which form a small burn that runs close by the village. This is situated about a quarter of a mile from the bay on the south-east, and all the inhabitants of

the island live in it. The number of inhabitants in 1764 was only eighty-eight; but formerly they were more numerous; and under proper regulations the island might easily support three hundred. Martin, who visited it in 1690, and who gives a very interesting account of its inhabitants, found at that time one hundred and eighty persons; but in 1730 one of the St Kildans, coming to Harris, was attacked with the small pox and died. Unluckily his clothes were carried to the island next year by one of his relations; and thus was the infection communicated, which made such havock that only four grown persons were left alive. St Kilda.

Their houses are built in two pretty regular rows facing one another, with a street running in the middle. These habitations are nearly flat in the roof, like those of the oriental nations; for, as their island is peculiarly subject to hurricanes, if their houses were raised in the roof, the first winter storm would blow them down. The walls are built of coarse freestone, without lime or mortar, but made solid by alternate layers of turf. In the middle of the walls are the beds, formed also of stone, and overlaid with large flagstones, capable of containing three persons, and having a small opening towards the house. All their houses are divided into two apartments, the interior of which is the habitation of the family; the other, nearest the door, receives the cattle during the winter season. The walls of their houses are raised to a greater height than the cottages of the other Western Islands. This is done to allow them to prepare the manure for their fields, which is done in the following manner: After having burned a considerable quantity of dried turf, they spread the ashes with the greatest care over the apartment in which they eat and sleep. These ashes, so exactly laid out, they cover Houses.

St Kilda. with a rich vegetable mould or black earth; over this bed of earth they scatter a proportionable quantity of peat dust; this done, they water, tread, and beat the compost into a hard floor, on which they immediately kindle large fires, and never extinguish till they have a sufficient stock of new ashes on hand. The same operations are punctually repeated till they are ready to sow their barley: by which time the walls of their houses are sunk down, or rather their floors have risen, about four or five feet. The manure thus produced is excellent, and, scattered every year over their fields, causes the lands to yield large crops. They speak highly in its praise, and term it a "commodity inestimably precious." Though cleanliness is highly conducive to health and longevity, yet, in spite of the instance of indelicacy already given, and many more which might have been added, the St Kildans are as long lived as other men. Their total want of those articles of luxury which destroy and enervate the constitution, and their moderate exercise, keep the balance of life equal between them and those of a more civilized country. Besides the habitations we have mentioned, there are a number of cells or storehouses scattered over the whole island. These are composed entirely of stones, and are from twelve to eighteen feet in length, and little more than seven in breadth and height. Every stone hangs above that immediately below it, not perpendicularly, but inclining towards the opposite side; so that two upper courses are near enough to be covered with a flat stone, giving the whole the appearance of an arch, to hinder the rain from penetrating the cell. The outward part is covered with turf, which continues green and verdant for a considerable time. In these the inhabitants secure their peats, eggs, and wild fowl, of which every St Kildan has his share, in proportion to the rent he pays, or the extent of land he possesses. In this as

well as their ancient customs, they regard with jealousy any innovation. St Kilda.

The St Kildan method of catching wild fowl is very entertaining. The men are divided into fowling parties, each of which generally consists of four persons distinguished for their agility and skill. Each party must have at least one rope, about thirty fathoms long, made of a strong raw cow-hide, salted for the purpose, and cut circularly into three thongs of equal length; these thongs being closely twisted together form a threefold cord, able to sustain a great weight, and durable enough to last two generations. To prevent its receiving injury from the sharp edges of the rocks, it is covered with sheep-skins dressed in the same manner. This rope is the most valuable piece of furniture a St Kilda man can be possessed of; it makes the first article in the testament of a father; and if it fall to a daughter's share, she is esteemed one of the best matches in the island. By the help of these ropes, the people of the greatest prowess examine the fronts of rocks of prodigious height. Linked together in couples, each having the end of the cord fastened about his waist, they go down and ascend the most dreadful precipices. When one is in motion, the other plants himself in a strong shelf, and takes care to have so sure a footing, that if his fellow-adventurer make a false step and tumble over, he may be able to save him. When one has arrived at a safe landing-place, he seats himself firmly, while the other endeavours to follow. Mr Macaulay gives an instance of the dexterity of the inhabitants of St Kilda in catching wild fowl, to which he was an eye-witness. One of them fixed himself on a craggy shelf; his companion descended about sixty feet below; and having darted himself away from the face of a most alarming precipice hanging over the ocean, he Mode of catching fowls.

Harris. began to play his gambols; he sung merrily, and laughed very heartily; at last, having afforded all the entertainment he could, he returned in triumph, full of his own merit, with a large string of fowls about his neck, and a number of eggs in his bosom. They feed a considerable number of sheep in their hills; and in pursuing these they exhibit no less agility than strength. They single out one of the flock, and pursue it over the highest rocks, never leaving the pursuit till they have secured their prey. The laird of M'Leod is the proprietor, and the island is visited annually by his steward to collect the rents, which are paid in sheep, butter, cheese, and wild fowl, particularly the soland geese, which build here in innumerable multitudes. This island is surrounded with several small insulated rocks, which are covered with seafowl. Fluors, spars, and rock crystal, are found on the north side of the island; but mineralogists have never extended their researches to this remote corner.

Harris. The Island of Harris, to the proprietor of which St Kilda belongs, is a continuation southward, as formerly mentioned, of the Island of Lewis. Two bays, called East and West Tarbat, reach almost across the territory between Lewis and Harris, leaving only a trifling isthmus forming the northern boundary of Harris. The sea to the south of Harris receives the name of the Sound of Harris. The Island or Peninsula of Harris has several islands attached to it, which may be divided into northern and southern isles. The Mainland of Harris, extending from the Sound on the south to Tarbat on the north, is fifteen miles in length. At the southern extremity its breadth is about six miles. It narrows gradually, but irregularly, towards the middle of this region, and from thence widens again towards the ridge of mountains that overhangs Tarbat; where, computing from the headlands on the west coast to those on the east, the breadth may

be about eight miles. The whole of this district is mountainous and rocky, excepting the west coast, which is mostly bordered with a stripe of plain ground, and covered with verdure almost to the tops of the hills. The east coast is indented all along with harbours, bays, and creeks, and exhibits to a spectator at sea the most barren aspect, appearing to be a continued bare rock. Near the shore, however, a few green patches are to be seen, brought into culture by the laborious industry of the inhabitants, in the manner to be hereafter described. The country is inhabited along the shore on each coast. The intermediate space is a wild uncultivated common. Within this district, on the west coast, are two large tracts of sand, covered by the sea at high water only. One of them is circular, and upwards of four miles in circumference; the other is oblong, about one mile and a half long and one mile broad. The inlet from the sea is narrow but deep. The process of recovering them would be hazardous and expensive; but, were they brought into culture, they would be more valuable than all the rest of the arable land in this district of Harris. Harris.

The Northern Isles inhabited are Taransay, Scalpay, and Scarp. Taransay is a high rocky island, about four miles long and one broad, lying in a western direction from the mouth of West Loch Tarbat. Scalpay is a low heath-covered round island in the entrance to East Loch Tarbat. Its land dimensions are not easily ascertained, its parts being scarcely coherent, through a singular intervention of water-lakes and arms of the sea jutting in through it in various directions. Its two extreme points, from east to west, may be computed three miles distant. On the east point is a light-house, built in 1788; and near the western extremity are two of the best natural harbours in the Hebrides. Mariners call it the Isle of Glass. Scarp is a North Isles of Harris.

Harris. high round rocky island, one compact mountain, of which the diameter at the base may be three miles. It is situated at the mouth of Loch Resort, and divided from Huskenish by a sound somewhat less than a mile broad at high water. Of the uninhabited islands belonging to this division, several small ones are placed round the bays and harbours of Scalpay, and along all the creeks of the east coast of Harris. There is one in East Loch Tarbat, called Skectisvay, about a mile long. In the West Loch is a long flat one, called Isay. Farther west, along the shore, are two called Soay. Within Scarp, at the mouth of Loch Resort, is a flat one called Fladday. All these names appear to be Danish. Four leagues north-west from Taransay is a large green island, called G'aaskier, which is a Gaelic name, signifying the "Rock of Geese." It is frequented by vast flocks of wild geese. The gentleman who possesses it in tack used, for many years, to send to it, from the island of Taransay, twelve heifers and a bull, about the 12th of August; and they were brought back, in high order, early in June, each cow having a calf. One year the whole flock perished; and to whatever cause the change may be imputed, it is certain that the pasture is now so far degenerated, that it affords but scanty feeding to about twelve sheep of a very small size.

Uninhabited Isles.

South Isles of Harris. Of the South Isles of Harris, four are inhabited; viz. Berneray, Pabbay, Calligray, and Eusay. Their general appearance is either flat, or gently sloping from a little elevation in the middle. Berneray, lying about a mile north of Uist, is a beautiful and fertile island, about four miles in length, and one mile and a half in breadth. Its north-west side is much damaged by the breaking of the sand-banks. Pabbay lies about a league west of Berneray, is of a conical appearance, and rises to a peak considerably higher than any other part of the islands in the

Sound. Its greatest diameter may measure about two miles and a half. This island was once the granary of Harris; but it has lost much of its fertility by the encroachment of the sand-drift, which now covers its south-east side to the very top, exhibiting a most desolate appearance. The south-west side is verdant and well cultivated. The north-west side, exposed to the Atlantic, yields little or no vegetation, the spray of the sea in stormy weather washing over it. Within one league and a half east from Berneray lie the islands of Calligray and Eusay, separated from each other by a narrow sound, called Caolas Scaire, through which the tide passes with the most impetuous current known among these coasts. These islands lie in a line, from south to north, along the south-west end of Harris. The intermediate opening is most commonly called the Sound of Harris, and is much frequented by shipping. Calligray is about two miles long and a mile broad. The south end is a deep moss, and for the most part uncultivated; the north end a sandy soil well cultivated. To the northward of this island lies Eusay, in size and shape nearly the same as Calligray, being verdant all over, and having a good soil well cultivated. Harris.

Of the uninhabited islands belonging to the southern division some are of considerable extent. A few of them may measure a mile in length and about half a mile in breadth. They are covered with heath and moss, and afford pretty good summer pasturage. The shores are lined with sea-weed. The people of the four islands already described repair to them, with their families and cattle, in the season of kelp-manufacturing. Here most of them get peats for fuel, there being no moss in any of the inhabited islands of this district, except Calligray; and to procure this necessary article, some of them have to go through a most dangerous navigation, to the distance of Uninhabited south isles.

Harris. most three leagues. The names of the largest isles are, Hormitray, Hulmitray, Saartay, Vetersay, Neartay, Opsay, Vaaksay, Haay, Luursay, Terogay, Scarvay, Lingay, Groay, Gilesay, Sagay, Stromay, Skeilay, Copay. There are besides these a vast number of islets, holms, and high rocks, for each of which the people have names. It is remarkable, that as the names of the larger isles terminate in *ay*, so the names of the islets generally terminate in *em ; e. g.* Tuem, Cuadem, Coddem, &c. From an eminence near the Sound may be had a very curious view of the odd mixture of land, rock, and water, which fills the space betwixt the Mainland of Uist and the Mainland of Harris. Standing on this eminence, at lowest ebb in spring tides, and in calm weather, one contemplates with amazement the vast variety of islands, rocks, banks, shoals, and straits, before him, compares them to the stars in the galaxy, and is almost bewildered in the view. "*Credas innare revulsas Cycladas.*" Here the tides rise to a great height ; the current runs with amazing rapidity ; the surge, when the wind blows against the tide, swells prodigiously ; and the roar of the breakers, foaming over the banks and shoals to an immense distance, seems to threaten the islanders with a general deluge. In winter storms the view is tremendous and grand beyond the power of description ; yet the people of the islands pilot vessels of all descriptions safely through this sound. Sixty sail of herring busses are sometimes seen to pass in safety in one day.

Society. Here, and indeed over most of the Highlands of Scotland, society consists of nearly the same divisions ; proprietors, tacksmen, tenants, and cottars. The tacksmen are a sort of substitute for factors. A tacksman obtains, at a certain rent, a lease of a large portion of the property of a gentleman, which he may occupy as he pleases. He usu-

ally takes into his own possession a large farm of the best of the land, and the remainder he allows to be occupied by tenants who pay him rent. He is usually a man of some credit or wealth, who can secure to the proprietor the regular payment of his income. Proprietors and tacksmen belong to the same class of society, and have the same manners and mode of living with other country gentlemen in Scotland, and they are men of liberal education. Harris.

The small tenants usually unite together in taking a farm. A small tenant-farm is a little commonwealth of villagers, whose houses or huts are huddled close together, with too little regard to form, order, or cleanliness, and whose lands are yearly divided by lot for tillage, while their cattle graze on the pastures in common. The small tenants in this country, who hold immediately of the proprietor, have leases like the principal tacksmen. The tacksman's tenants, in regard of living, are on much the same footing with those who hold the same quantity of land of the proprietor, though in most instances they pay more rent, and are removable at pleasure. The food of the people in Harris is potatoes, fish, barley or oat bread, milk, eggs, kail, fowls, and sometimes a little mutton or beef salted for winter and spring provision. An inferior class of people, called cottars, or tacksmen's servants, are constantly employed in the labours of the farm. They have generally grass, on the same pasture with their master's cattle, for one milch-cow, with its followers: *i. e.* a three-year, a two-year, and one-year old; a working horse and breeding mare; besides sheep, in the number of which they are seldom restricted; and a small piece of land for corn and potatoes, with its proportion of sea-ware for manure. They have also a kail-yard, fuel, and a weekly allowance of a peck of meal. They are allowed a day in the week to work for themselves. Tenants. Cottars.

Harris. Quern or hand-mill.

In Harris the ancient hand-mill, called the *quern*, is still in very general use. The quern consists of two circular pieces of stone, generally of grit or granite, about twenty inches in diameter. In the lower stone is a wooden peg rounded at the top. On this the upper stone is nicely balanced, so as just to touch the lower one, by means of a piece of wood fixed in a large hole in this upper piece, but which does not fill the hole; room for feeding the mill being left on each side. It is so nicely balanced, that though there is some friction, from the contact of the two stones, yet a very small momentum will make it revolve several times when it has no corn in it. The corn being dried, two women sit down on the ground, having the quern between them; the one feeds it, while the other turns it round, relieving each other occasionally, and singing some Celtic songs all the time. This simple mill seems to have been used by many rude nations. Some of them have been found in Yorkshire; and in the course of the southern Roman wall, between Solway Frith and the Eastern Sea, several have been dug up. It would seem that the prophecy of Christ, concerning the fate of two women grinding at a mill, refers to the quern, which might be the mill used at that time.

Kelp.

Kelp is the staple commodity of Harris, and, excepting the few cows sold to the drovers, forms the only valuable article of exportation which the country produces. In consequence of the high prices some years ago, and the encouragement held out to convert all the sea-ware into kelp, the manufacture has been carried to great length, to the detriment of the corns and pastures, which have degenerated much, through want of the manure formerly afforded by the shores; all that is used for that purpose being what is cast ashore after the kelp-making season is past. No tree grows here, though nothing is more cer-

pain than that the country was once wooded all over. The gentlem plant some bushes and shrubs in their gardens, which fade as soon as they overtop the walls. Harris.

The vast number of fresh-water lakes in this country abound with excellent black trout. Some good salmon likewise come into the foot of the rivulets, from the sea, in and before the spawning season. Whales and cearban, or sail-fish, hover along the coast in the summer months. Seals in vast abundance are to be seen throughout the year. The sea-fish most beneficial to the people are, the white herring, dogfish, blindfish, cod, ling, skait, mackerel, codling, lythe, sythe, cuddy, sand-eel. There are some oysters and other shell-fish. There are a number of chalybeate springs, some copper and iron ore. The stone everywhere throughout the country is excellent for building. It is of various kinds; the most common is a hard blue whin of a beautiful gloss. In many places there is the best of granite, admitting of a polish as fine as marble. There is neither marble, nor limestone, nor freestone, as yet discovered. Fish. Minerals.

A most destructive process of nature is the continual wasting of the land on the western shore, by the perpetual drifting of the sand, and the gradual encroachment of the sea. This is evinced by the clearest testimonies. Lands which were ploughed within the remembrance of people yet living are now no more. Wherever a high sand-bank has been entirely worn away, the soil under it is found to have been either a rich loam or black moss. In many such situations, vestiges of houses, inclosures, churches, and burying grounds appear. In the Island of Pabbay, where the sea ebbs out in spring tides to a great distance, there are visible, at the very lowest ebb, large trunks of trees; the roots of which, spread out widely and variously, are fixed in black moss, which might be dug for peat at a great depth. Nor is this pe- Encroachment of the sea.

Harris. culiar to Harris. The same, and other phenomena of the like kind, are observable along the whole sandy shore of Lewis, which affords the strongest proof that a wide extent of its western coast, once the habitation of men, has, either through some violent concussion, or a gradual process of nature, become the bed of a part of the Atlantic Ocean. Indeed, the isles which stretch southward from Lewis, and constitute the group often called the Long Island, have in their physical structure a peculiarity which ought not to pass unnoticed. They are flat, or decline towards their western side, and ascend towards the east, forming in this last quarter a lofty precipitous ridge. Hence they are greatly exposed to the action of the Western Ocean, to its spray, and to the strong winds which blow from that quarter. The sea is so evidently encroaching, in our own times, on their western side, which is the most fertile, that there can be no doubt that they have long been declining in importance, and that they must have been of far greater value in former ages than at present. Their rocks are of the class called *primary* by naturalists; and they have evidently one common basis, though broken and diversified at the surface. Their structure is the reverse of that which generally prevails in the Highlands and Isles of Scotland. Indeed, were it not that in the north-west of Scotland, as in Orkney and Shetland, the strata of rock, in general, decline towards the east, while they ascend towards the west, and thereby, in most of the islands, present a bold rocky front of towering hills and promontories, adequate to resist the surge of the Atlantic urged on by the west winds, there is no doubt that very many of the Scottish Isles, as well as much of the mainland, must long ere now have been devoured, or at least greatly wasted, by the ocean. It is a singular and important fact, in the history of the globe, that in a very great number

Physical structure.

of countries the strata of rocks incline in the same manner; that is, descend towards the east, while they rise towards the west. This is remarkably the case in the great continent of America, but more especially in South America. In North America, the whole eastern coast, from New England to the Gulph of Florida, is, with some trifling exceptions, a flat territory, somewhat similar in its nature to what are called carse-lands in Scotland. The country ascends towards the west for some hundred miles, till it terminates in Alleghany Ridge, beyond which it is unequal, but still rises upon the whole; and on the western coast, upon the Pacific Ocean, are very elevated tracts of territory, containing lofty mountains. The eastern coast of South America is entirely level, and much of it is a swamp. The country gradually ascends, till on the western coast of the Pacific Ocean it terminates in the terrific mountains called the Andes, which, in the torrid zone, are covered with perpetual snow, and give rise to the most enormous rivers in the world, all of which descend towards the east. In like manner, the western peninsula of Hindost anconsists of an inclined plane, which descends gradually towards the east, and on the west presents a long wall, or lofty front of rock, called the *Ghauts*, or Passes, from the steep, narrow, and precipitous paths, by which alone this front of rock can be ascended. The great empire of China consists of a declivity from west to east. Its lofty western side is in contact with the high region of Tartary; while from thence the whole territory gradually descends towards the Pacific Ocean and the rising sun. The continent of Africa is less known; but it would appear, from the discoveries of Mungo Park, that the great river Niger rises among a tract of mountains at no great distance from the western coast, and descends towards the east. There is even reason to believe, that a- Harris.

Harris. bout the middle of that continent another tract of mountainous territory runs from north to south, and descends towards the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. Thus, to give to Scotsmen af amiliar illustration, it may be remarked, that almost all the world resembles, on a vast scale, the physical constitution of the Midlothian hills of Arthur's Seat, Salisbury Craigs, the Calton Hill, and the Old Town of Edinburgh; which consist of hills trailing along with a gradual declivity towards the east, while towards the west they exhibit a lofty, broken, and precipitous front. These facts are undoubtedly worthy of notice; but we leave it to bolder spirits to undertake the arduous task of explaining by what accident it happened, either in the original construction, or in the future history, of this globe, that the land and the strata of rock came in general to sink towards the east, or to be pushed upwards towards the west, and thereby to hold up the territory of so many countries as an inclined plane facing the rising sun.

Antiquities. To return from this digression: It may be remarked, in the island of Harris there are several monuments of

Druidical temples. Druidism, or Druidical temples. There are two on the Mainland of Harris. There is one at Nisabost, and the other at Berer. What now remains of each of these monuments consists of a long flat stone, raised on one end, perpendicular to the plane of the horizon, about eight feet above the surface of the earth, and surrounded by a circle of smaller stones, placed on edge, of about ten yards diameter. The great stone is not quite in the centre of the circle. Within a few yards of the one at Berer there are clear vestiges of a circular building, which has either been a temple adjoining this *clachan*, or the residence of the officiating Druids. One of these monuments in the Island of Berneray is remarkable for its name, and varies a little from the above description. The principal stone is something of a conical figure, placed on the small

end, and flat above. Its height above the surface is not ve feet. The circle which surrounds it is less in diameter than those already mentioned; is made up of long sharp-pointed stones, laid not very close together, but so as that a man may pass betwixt every two. It is to this day called *Clach-na-greine*, "the Stone of the Sun," or of Apollo Grinæus. Harris.

It may be remarked, once for all, that on the coast of Harris, and of all the Hebrides, and also upon the western coast of the mainland of Inverness-shire, Argyleshire, and the whole Highlands, abundance of those buildings here called Duns are to be found, which we have already described under the denomination of Picts Houses. They are all situated on eminences, and built in a circular form of large square stones, correctly laid, and strongly knit together by the construction of the work, without any cement. Two of them are always in sight of each other, and they frequently follow a continued chain. Duns.

In times of popery there were no less than twelve churches or chapels in Harris and its dependent isles. The ruins of them are still to be seen, and their names are remembered. The reformation destroyed them, and till very lately did not place in their stead a single decent building devoted to public worship. A monastery formerly stood in Harris at Bendill. It is mentioned as one of the donations of King David the First, the great benefactor of the Scottish church, to the canons regular of St Augustine, and seems from this period to have depended on the Abbey of Holyroodhouse, which was built and endowed by the same King David, A. D. 1128. The church of the monastery has been repaired, and is used as a place of public worship. The different branches of the family of M'Leod of M'Leod and Harris have long been proprietors of the island. Popish chapels.

Harris. A singular deviation from the common course of the tides prevails in the Sound of Harris. The people say (and will not be contradicted in their assertion), that from the autumnal to the vernal equinox, the current, in neap tides, passes all day from east to west, and all night in the contrary direction; that immediately after the vernal equinox it changes this course, going all day from west to east, and the contrary at night. In spring tides the current corresponds more nearly to the common course of ebbing and flowing.

From Harris and its adjacent isles, a long chain of islands continues to the south or south-west. The whole chain, from the northern point of Lewis to its southern termination, in a few small islands, called the Bishop's Isles, is frequently denominated the Long Island. The whole of the chain to the south of Lewis belongs to Inverness-shire.

North Uist. The next great island to the south of Harris is North Uist. Contrary to the general rule, on the north and western coast of Scotland, a part of the western side of Lewis lies low; and hence there is reason to suspect, that here, as in Harris, the ocean has made great encroachments, and has diminished the value of the territory from what it was in ancient times. North Uist is of a very irregular shape, about twenty miles long and from twelve to eighteen broad. That part of the coast which is washed by the Atlantic is inaccessible to vessels, or even to fishing boats, except in the calmest weather, on account of the rocks and shoals which surround it. The east coast also is bold, except where it is intersected by the several inlets of the sea, which form safe and commodious harbours. These are Cheese Bay, Loch Maddie, Loch Evoret, and the harbours of Rucheva and Kellin. Of these the best is Loch Maddie, having safe anchorage for vessels of any burden, with an easy outlet with al-

most any wind. Along the east coast, around these harbours, the ground is barren, hilly, and almost uninhabited. The west and north parts of the island are low and level for about a mile and a half from the sea, when the surface also becomes moory, with hills of small height, covered with black heath. The cultivated land on the coast has mostly a sandy soil, which, as it approaches the moorlands, is a thin black loam, lying upon a gravelly or freestone bottom. The cultivated part is pleasant and agreeable in summer, yielding, in favourable seasons, luxuriant crops of oats and barley and the richest pasture; but as there are no trees to afford shelter during the inclemency of winter, the appearance is greatly changed, and verdure is scarcely to be seen; so that the cattle, in these seasons, are fed partly upon straw, and partly upon seaweed thrown by storms upon the shore. There are a great number of fresh-water lakes, well stored with trout, and frequented by innumerable flocks of aquatic fowls. The number of cows is about 2000, of which 300 are annually exported. The number of small horses is at least 1600. The state of agriculture is far behind; and the implements of husbandry, with a few exceptions, are the same kind that were used a century back. The quantity of kelp annually manufactured is about 1200 tons, the greater part of which is in the hands of the proprietor, Lord M'Donald. It has been the policy of the present proprietor to reduce the possessions of the tacksmen to farms not too extensive to be managed and stocked without subsetting, but each cultivated by the person who holds it in lease; and to raise the inferior tenantry, from a secondary dependence upon the tacksman, to hold immediately from the landlord: a policy this which is said to have indeed offended the tacksmen, but which cer- North Uist.

North Uist. tainly tends to encourage the industry, and to improve the comfort, of the poorer class.

Productions. In this island, on the morasses, grows that long grass well known through Scotland by the common name of *bent*, unfit for pasture, but used for thatching, for ropes, and for some other similar purposes. By the sea-side grows a sort of natural colewort, named *merran* and *rue*, useful for dyeing a red colour, but now forbidden to be plucked up, lest the removing of it should promote that drifting of the sands which every where threatens to desolate the level shores. *Brisgean*, or wild sherrat, is a succulent root, which the common people boil and use for potatoes or bread. Carmile roots, wild carrots, baldmeny, hemlock, with the strawberry and cranberry plants, the juniper bush, and the bramble, also grow here. Eagles, hawks, ravens, herns, crows, plovers, moorfowls, woodcocks, ptarmigans, soland geese, gulls, wild ducks and geese, starnags, fasgalars, and innumerable other land, but especially waterfowls, are common to North Uist with the contiguous isles. Polecats, weasles, and deer, less noxious, are among the wild quadrupeds. The cuddy, receiving in its third year the name of *saith*, in the fourth that of *inse*, and waxing, through various gradations of bulk, to the size of the salmon, is the most plentiful of all the species of sea-fishes which frequent these shores. Syth, cod, herrings, ling, sand-eels, lobsters, crabs, clams, oysters, wilks, periwinkles, cockles, muscles, limpets, spout-fishes, and many other sorts of shell-fishes, are also numerous. Otters, seals, dog-fishes, skates, swarm over the whole coasts.

Small isles. About a league to the northward of North Uist lies Boreray, a fertile island, a mile and a half long and half a mile broad. Between this island and the mainland of North Uist lies Oronsay, an island only at high-water,

half a mile long; the soil sandy for the most part, but fertile in favourable seasons. Three miles westward of the last mentioned island, but still north of the mainland of North Uist, lies Vallay; also an island only at high water, and separated from the shore when the tide is out by a sand two miles broad. It is a mile and a half long, not half a mile broad; the soil for the most part sandy. It is beautiful, and fertile in corn and grass when the summer is rainy; but yields very little of either when the season is the reverse. In the winter and spring it is quite barren, the surface being covered with sand, which a gale from the north-west never fails to blow over it. Two leagues to the north-west of North Uist lies Heisker, nearly two miles in length, but very narrow. The soil is sandy, yields very little grass at any time, and is only valuable on account of its kelp shores and a small quantity of grain it produces. The islands of Kirkbest and Ileray lie stretched along the west coast of North Uist, pretty close to it, and separated from it, and from one another, by a sand which the sea overflows at high water. The former is one mile long, but very narrow: the soil sandy; lies quite exposed to the Western Ocean, which makes yearly encroachments, and is in danger of being soon blown away by the wind. The latter is three miles long, and half a mile broad in most places. The soil is partly sandy and partly black ground, yielding tolerable crops of barley, and pasture for cattle. South of the mainland of North Uist, between it and Benbecula, lies Grimsay, an island only at high water. This is a barren island, two miles in length, and covered with heath, but is very valuable on account of its kelp shores. Small Isles.

Benbecula is divided from South Uist by a strait or sound seven miles broad. It is about ten miles in circumference. It is separated from South Uist by a narrow Benbecula

South Uist. and shallow sound, fordable at low water. There is the same reason for supposing that this island is of less value now than it was at former times, that there is for making that supposition with regard to several other islands in this chain; viz. that, contrary to the general form of the west of Scotland, its western side is low, and its eastern the most mountainous. It still exhibits the remains of an ancient nunnery. Its soil, animals, natural and cultivated productions, are similar to those already described.

South Uist. South Uist is contiguous, at its northern extremity, to the island of Benbecula. South Uist is about thirty miles long, and from two to nine miles in breadth. Its area has been calculated to afford, on the west side, 40,000 acres of land capable of cultivation. On that side it is light and sandy. The principal harbours, or rather retreats for them, are Loch Skepert, Loch Eynert, and Loch Borisdale, which are well adapted for fishing stations. The number of sheep is about 7000, and of horses 800. About 480 or 500 cows are annually sold from the island; but the principal source of emolument is from the making of kelp; of which, on an average, 1100 tons are annually manufactured. Druidical temples are here to be seen, as well as Duns or Picts houses. A great majority of the common people are Roman catholics. Vast numbers have at different periods emigrated from this and the neighbouring islands to America. The fish are similar to those in the neighbourhood. The sail-fish, or, as it is called by the Scottish fishermen, the basking shark, frequently appears here in May or June. They are in size from twenty-five to forty feet in length, and the circumference of the body is great. The tail consists of two unequal lobes; the skin is rough. The upper jaw is much longer than the lower one. The teeth are small, disposed

Sail-fish, or basking shark.

in numbers along the jaws. The eyes are placed at four- South Uist.
teen or eighteen inches distant from the tip of the nose. The apertures of the gills are long, and furnished with strainers of the substance of whalebone. These fish swim slowly with their two dorsal fins above water, and seem as if asleep. They are tame and stupid, and permit the near approach of man. They suffer a boat to follow them without accelerating their motion. The harpooner strikes his weapon into the fish as near the gills as possible; but they are often so insensible as not to move till the united strength of two men has forced in the harpoon deeper. When the fish perceives himself to be wounded, he throws up his tail, plunges headlong to the bottom, tries to disengage himself by rolling on the ground, whereby the rope is coiled several times round him, and the harpoon often bent. Finding his efforts vain, he swims away with prodigious velocity, and such force as to tow a vessel of seventy tons burden against a fresh gale. They sometimes run off with 200 fathoms of line and two harpoons, and will occupy the fishers twelve or fourteen hours before they are subdued. The liver is the valuable part of them. A large one produces nine or ten barrels of liver, from which the return of oil is about eight barrels. These fish are found on most of the western coasts of the north seas; Linnæus says within the arctic circle. They are also found on the coast of Norway, the Orkney Isles, the Hebrides, the Welsh coast, and in the Bay of Balishannan on the coast of Ireland. They are extremely inoffensive. Nothing is found in their stomachs but dissolved greenish matter; so that they are supposed to feed on sea-weed, or, at least, on animals destitute of red blood. The vulgar name of basking shark is ill applied to them. They are called in Erse *cairban*.

The Island of Erisca is situated to the southward of

Eriska. South Uist. Its extent is trifling, and its population not numerous. The natural state of this isle differs but inconsiderably from that of the others which have been described. The fishery, kelp, pasturage, and a little tillage, are the means it presents for the maintenance of its inhabitants. It is not known to be distinguished by quadrupeds, fishes, or fowls, peculiar to itself. The eagles common through these isles have been occasionally made the instruments of a singular species of theft. Some of the idler and more mischievous peasants, seeking out an eagle's nest, sew up the eaglets anus. Thus, unable to void their excrements, they shriek continually from pain. The parent eagles, mistaking this shrieking for the cry of unsatisfied hunger, return incessantly for lambs, kids, and fishes. The nest is loaded with fresh provisions. In the evening the thief steals to it, gives a temporary relief to the bursting eaglets, again stitches up their fundaments, and carries off the superfluous provisions which the old eagles have laid in. But this practice is now diligently checked.

Singular theft.

Inferior islands. To the southward of these is Barra, or Barray, which, with a number of lesser islands, constitutes a parochial district, terminating the chain of isles which stretches from Lewis, on the north, to Berneray or Bishop's Isle, on the south. The principal islands besides Barray that are inhabited, are Watersay, Sanderay, Dabay, Mengalay, and Berneray, to the south; Flodday, Hellesay, and Gigay, on the east; besides a number of smaller islands not inhabited. The main island of Barray is eight computed miles in length, and from two to four in breadth, being intersected in different places by arms of the sea. The island of Watersay, separated from the main island by a channel of one mile, is about three miles in length, and in some places a mile and a half broad. The next is Sande-

Barray.

ray, distant five miles from Barray. It is two miles in length, two in breadth, and contains nine families. Pabbay, lying at the distance of eight miles from Barray, one and a half in length, and one in breadth, contains three families. Mengalay, at the distance of twelve miles, two miles in length, and two miles in breadth, contains eight families. The last is Berneray, which, from its being called the Bishop's Isle, seems to have once belonged to the Bishop of the Isles. It is sixteen miles distant from Barray, one mile in length, three-fourths of a mile in breadth, and contains three families. These islands are fertile in corn and grass, but liable to be blasted by the south-west winds, which frequently blow here. They are very difficult of access, on account of the strong currents running between them; and landing is sometimes not only difficult but hazardous. Close by the island of Mengalay is is a high rock, with very luxuriant grass growing on the top of it. The inhabitants of this island climb to the top, at the risk of their lives, and by means of a rope carry up their wedders to fatten. This must be the *Scarpa Vervecum* mentioned by Buchanan. The main island of Barray has a barren appearance, from the great quantity of rock to be seen every where, excepting the north end, which, for fertility, if the climate were equally good, might be compared to any of the same extent in any part of Scotland. In the middle and south end are very high hills, and some flat grounds. The hills are a mixture of green rock and heath, and seem to be better calculated for a sheep walk than for rearing black cattle, but lie at too great a distance from market. Barray.

There are great quantities of cod and ling caught upon the east coast of Barray, or between that and the mainland; and a considerable number of boats are annually employed here. The shell-fish called cockle is found in

Barray. vast abundance on the great sand-bank on the north end of Barray. In time of scarcity, about 200 families, that is to say, the whole population of the island, have resorted to it for their daily subsistence. During two successive years of scarcity, not less than from 100 to 200 horse-loads of cockles were taken from these sands at low water, every day of the spring tides, during the months of May, June, July, and August.

Of the harbours connected with this island, it may be observed, that the first, towards the North Ottirvore, is more properly a road than a harbour: the entrance to it is from the east, between the islands of Hellesay and Gigay. The next further south is Flodday Sound, surrounded by a number of islands, and opens to the south-east. Here the largest ships may ride with safety all the seasons of the year. Terivah, or the Inland Bay, so called from its cutting far into the middle of the country. Here vessels may ride out the hardest gales. It opens also to the south-east. On the south end of Barray is Kisimul Bay, so called by the natives; and by mariners Castle Bay, from an old castle to be afterwards mentioned. It opens to the south. In the island of Watersay is a commodious harbour for ships of any burden. It is accessible from the south-east, between the islands of Sanderay and Muldonich, or the Deer Island. Ottirvore and Flodday are much frequented by ships to and from the Baltic. The convenience of these harbours, or more properly roads, and the great quantity of fish killed upon the coast, should make Barray a more eligible situation for a village than any that the Joint Stock Company have yet pitched upon. These harbours have good outlets for the south and north, and are near the fishing banks. They also abound in small cod and flounders.

At the place called Castle Bay is a fort built upon a

rock, which must have formerly been almost covered with the sea. This fort is of a hexagonal form; the wall is near thirty feet high: in one of its angles is a high square tower; on the top of which, at the corner immediately above the gate, is a perforated stone, through which the gockman or watchman, who sat there all night, might let a stone fall upon any person who attempted to surprise the gate by night. Within the walls are several houses, and a well dug through the middle of the rock. The tradition here is, that this fort was built upwards of 500 years ago. Buchanan calls it an old castle in his time. It was always the residence of the lairds of Barray, till the beginning of the last century. Here are also several Druidical temples, none of them remarkable for extent or structure. Of the buildings here called Duns there are five on the island of Barray, two in Watersay, one in Sanderay, one in Pabbay, one in Mengalay, and one in Berneray; the last of which is taken notice of by the learned Dr M'Pherson of Slate in his Antiquities, and is more entire than any of the rest. Each of these Duns is in sight of some other, that in case of an invasion the alarm might be more speedily communicated to the whole. Barray. Old fort.

Barray has long belonged to the family of M'Neil. In the reign of James the Sixth, an English ship was seized upon the coast by Roderick M'Neil, then laird of Barray, surnamed *Ruary'u'turter*, or, "Roy the turbulent;" probably so called from the frequent depredations he committed in different places, which were not uncommon in those days. Queen Elizabeth complained to the court of Scotland of an act of piracy committed upon her subjects; upon which the laird of Barray was summoned to appear at Edinburgh, to answer for his unjustifiable behaviour; but he either refused or despised the summons. Trial of M'Neil.

Barray. Several attempts were afterwards made to apprehend him, which proved unsuccessful. Mr M'Kenzie, commonly called the Tutor of Kintail, predecessor to the late Lord M'Leod, undertook by stratagem what others could not do by more direct means. Having come, under cover of a friendly visit, to the castle of Kisimul, where the laird then resided, he invited him and all the retainers on board his vessel, where they, not suspecting any hostile design, suffered themselves to be overpowered with liquor; so that all his friends were easily persuaded to go on shore, and trust their chief in the hands of one who had so hospitably entertained them. Kintail improved the advantage put into his hands, hoisted sail under night; and the wind proving fair, he was soon out of reach of his pursuers. He at length arrived with his prisoner at Edinburgh, where M'Neil was tried for his life. Being interrogated why he treated Queen Elizabeth's subjects with such barbarity, he replied, that he thought himself bound by his loyalty to retaliate, as much as lay in his power, the unpardonable injury done by the Queen of England to his own sovereign and his Majesty's mother. It would appear that the whole transaction, on the part of the Scottish court, was conducted merely as a matter of ostentation, to avoid a quarrel with Elizabeth. M'Neil was pardoned, but his estate was forfeited. The forfeiture, however, consisted of transferring it immediately from the crown to M'Kenzie, who had performed the service of seizing M'Neil. M'Kenzie immediately gave it back to M'Neil, on condition of a payment of sixty merks Scots annually, amounting to L.3 : 6 : 8 Sterling.

General remarks. The chain of islands which we have now described, excepting St Kilda, form the most westerly part of the Hebrides. As already mentioned, the most singular circumstance in their structure is, that the flat part of them

lies towards the west—a circumstance which must of necessity have, in the course of ages, greatly diminished their extent and value. It is only because their soil in that direction is a light sand, which readily absorbs moisture, that they possess any degree of fertility. With them the year is divided rather into a wet season and a dry, than into spring, summer, autumn, and winter. The energy of vegetation is hardly renewed till the rains and blasting winds have ceased in April. The heat is often torrid; vegetation rapid; the sky with little variation serene; the winds neither too violent nor too fickle till the month of August have partly passed. By that time the rains begin to fail, the winds arise, and both prevail almost incessantly till the ensuing March have nearly expired. Yet during this continuance of wind and rain, no heavy falls of snow, and no extreme severity of frost, are here known. Insular disposition mitigates to these isles the inclemency of a period of the year, which latitude and exposure would otherwise render much more distressful to their inhabitants. Only vegetables, which spring rapidly and ripen early, can be profitably cultivated as articles of crop. Flax, hemp, potatoes, barley, appear to answer reasonably well; but even black oats, although hardier, and not later in ripening, than the white, are seldom ripe when it becomes necessary to cut them down, and can scarcely ever be gathered in without having been considerably damaged by the winds and rains while in the shock, or while standing. The sheep and black cattle and horses are *stunted* in their growth by the scantiness of forage which so long a period of inclement weather necessarily produces, and are subjected to those diseases which animals contract by exposure to storms, and to a humid chilling atmosphere. General Remarks.

Returning to the neighbourhood of the mainland of In-

Sky. verness-shire, across a channel called the Minch, we come to the Island of Sky. It is the largest of all the Hebrides. It lies at the distance of about eighteen miles south-west from Harris; on the south-east it approaches very near to the district of Glenelg, on the continent of Scotland. On the south it is divided by about five leagues of sea, from the promontory of Ardnamurchan in Argyle-shire; the Minsh channel on the west divides it from South Uist and Barray; and the sea, by which it is washed on the north, opens at length into the Northern Ocean. This island is between fifty and sixty miles in length, and its greatest breadth is about forty miles. At the ferry of Glenelg it is not above half a mile from the mainland of Inverness-shire. It is deeply intersected round its whole circumference by arms of the sea. The Bay of Portree, Loch Snizort, and Loch Braccadale, are the largest of its bays. The coasts are in general bold and rocky, abounding with many safe and commodious bays, especially at the harbour of Oronsay in the parish of Slate, and the harbour at the village of Portree. The country is mountainous, and some of the hills are so high as to be covered with snow on their tops at midsummer; their sides are covered with heath and grass, which afford good pasture for sheep and black cattle. Between the mountains are some fertile valleys; and the greater part towards the sea-coast is plain and arable, particularly in the parish of Kilmuir, where the soil produces good crops. The island is well watered by a great number of rivers abounding with trout and salmon. In the small rivers Kilmartin and Ord, is found the great horse-muscle (*mytilus margaritifera*), in which pearls are bred. Mr Martin was informed by the proprietor of Ord, that a pearl has been found in it valued at L.20 Sterling. There

are also in the island a number of fresh-water lakes stored with trout and eel. Sky.

Sky contains various objects worthy of the notice of the traveller. In the parish of Snizort is a huge perpendicular rock or natural obelisk of uncommon height and magnitude, which when seen from a distance very much resembles a large steeple. The stone is about 360 feet in circumference at the base; a little below the middle it is a good deal rounder; and thence lessening upwards, it seems to end nearly in a sharp point; its height is thought to exceed 300 feet. There is also in the same side of the parish, in the march between it and the parish of Portree, a beautiful fall of water or cataract, the perpendicular height of which is about ninety feet. What is most remarkable relative to this fall is, that nearly opposite to the middle of it there is an arched hollow path across the rock, along which five or six people may walk abreast with the greatest safety, quite secure from and unmolested by the body of water that rolls over them, and which in this situation they might mistake for a thick pillar of close smoke, did they not see it dash upon the rocks below. Natural obelisk.

In the parish of Kilmuir, in a low valley, there is a small hill shaped like a house, and covered with small trees, or rather shrubs, of natural growth. At one side of it there is a lake of fresh water, from which there is no visible discharge. Its water finds many passages through the hill, and makes its appearance on the other side in a great number of springs of the very purest kind. They all run into an oval bason below, which has a bottom of white sand, and is the habitation of many small fish. From that pond the water runs in a copious stream to the sea. At the side of this rivulet there is a bath made of stone, and concealed from public view by small trees sur- Curious lakes.

Sky. rounding it. Its name is Loch Shant, or the Sacred Lake. There was once a great resort of people afflicted with ailments to this place. They bathed themselves and drank of the water, though it has no mineral quality; and in a shelf made for the purpose in the wall of a contiguous inclosure, they left offerings of small rags, pins, and coloured threads, to the divinity of the place.

Concealed valley. At the northern termination of a ridge of mountains in the same parish, is a most curious concealed valley. It is on all sides surrounded with high rocks, and accessible to men or cattle only in three or four places. A person seeing the top of these rocks could never imagine that they surrounded so great a space of ground. In barbarous times, when perpetual feuds and discords subsisted between the clans, to such a degree that life and moveable property, could not be secure, when the approach of an enemy was announced, the weakest of the inhabitants, with all the cattle, were sent into that secret asylum, where strangers could never discover them without particular information. It is so capacious as to hold (but not to pasture for any length of time) 4000 head of cattle.

Hills. The coast of Portree, on each side of the mouth of the harbour, but more especially on the north, is overhung by huge cliffs of stupendous height. To west-south-west of the harbour is a hill called *Ait-Suidhe-Fhuin*, or "Fingal's sitting Place;" because on the top of it is a green hillock, on which, says tradition, Fingal was wont to sit in state, point out the different courses, and survey his heroes pursuing the chace. From this hillock, in a clear day, the lofty hills of Cullen and Strath, the parishes of Duerinsh and Braccadale, the Long Island, North and South Uist, and Barray, may be seen, as likewise the west side of Treternish, Portree, Raasay, Applecross, Loch Carron, and the interjacent seas. Nearly opposite to this

hill, at a mile's distance, south-east of the harbour, rises *Ban-dian-a-bhaig*, or, "the Hill of his Defence," having also on its top a green hillock, called *Cruachan-Mhic-Swan* (M'Swan's eminence), remarkable only for its similarity to that on the top of *Ait-suide-Fhuin*, unless the tradition, that a son of Swain or Sueno, a Danish or Norwegian king, lies buried there, may be thought deserving of notice. On the side of *Ban-dian-a-bhaig* that looks towards Raasay, and which is extremely steep, rise a number of rocks of a conical form, green at their tops, or covered with heath. Between these rocks run small hollow vales, where sheep and goats find pasture; and at the bottom of the hill, on the same side, are several caves, in which sea-fowl and wild pigeons nestle, and into some of which the sea at high water enters. The hill itself, on account of its height and peculiar form, is an infallible mark of the situation and place of the harbour. Sky.

On the shore of the same parish is a cave that merits particular attention. It is extremely narrow without, but within becomes very spacious and high, capable of containing at ease 500 persons. Below its mouth, up from high-water mark to the level of the cave, the hollow rock is faced with a perpendicular wall of large plain-stone about twelve feet high, having several steps so narrow that only one man can ascend at a time. Within, the air freely circulates; in the middle is a well; and if they had no fire-arms, one man could easily defend the passage against a host of foes: so that it seems to have been designed, both by nature and art, as a place of secure retreat; though, if the tradition be true, it proved otherwise to one party that retired to it for safety: for the story goes, that in the troublesome and barbarous times, when the neighbouring districts plundered and destroyed each other, and the weak were always a prey to the strong, Cave.

Sky. many often retreated to this cave as a place of concealment and security. At one time, however, they within deeming themselves from their situation too secure, were negligent in defending the passage. Their enemies got intelligence they were there, and surprising them in the night, filled the mouth of the cave with timber and moist heath, and then setting fire to it, allowed none to escape, but all were either smothered to death in their sleep, or miserably perished in the flames. In confirmation of this tradition, a man not long since dead found about sixty years ago a large brass kettle, in a dark corner in the farther end of the cave; and bones of different sizes are still to be seen in it. It abounds in stalactites, which partly hang from the arch above, and partly fall down, many of them having several holes through and through, and are great curiosities. Another cave is not far distant, and is of unexplored extent. Concerning this last, the vulgar tell a story about a piper, or player on the bagpipes, who, along with some other persons, attempted to explore the recesses of the cavern. None of the party ever returned; but persons above ground, in the direction in which the cavern runs, though at the distance of a mile from its mouth, heard the piper playing under ground beneath their feet. This story of the piper seems to be a very favourite one in the Highlands; it is told concerning some other caverns in Sky, and concerning several on the mainland of Scotland. In particular, it is told concerning a cave on the river Nevis in Inverness-shire, which we formerly described. In this last case the tradition is, that the noise of the piper's music was heard under ground at a place called Kinloch, distant from the entrance of the cave no less than ten miles. The tune he played was, "Oh that I had three hands, two for the bagpipe and one for the sword;" signifying that he had been attacked by subterranean foes.

In the district of the parish of Strath called Strathaird, are a number of caves, in one of which Prince Charles Stuart, the son of the pretender, lodged for some nights in 1746. That this island, like most of the other islands of the Hebrides, has been formerly covered with woods, appears from the large trunks of fir and other trees daily dug up in all the bogs and peat-mosses in the country. From the height of the hills, and its insular situation, the air seldom continues long of the same temperature; the air is generally loaded with vapour; and, on an average, three days in twelve throughout the year are scarcely free from rain, far less from clouds. These, attracted by the hills, sometimes break in useful and refreshing showers; at other times, suddenly bursting like a water-spout, pour down their contents with tremendous noise, deluging the plains below, and often destroying the hopes of the husbandman. The crops also suffer by the stormy winds which set in about the end of August or beginning of September. To this variable temperature of the air, and uncertainty of the weather, the agues, fevers, rheumatisms, pectoral affections, and dysenteries—the prevailing distempers—may be ascribed. That the climate, however, is far from being unhealthy, the long life of the inhabitants sufficiently testifies. The soil is in general black and mossy, and better adapted for pasture than tillage; though the latter might be advantageously followed if leases and proper encouragement were given to the tenants. The *cascroim*, or crooked spade, is almost the only utensil used by the common class of tenants in labouring the ground. The mode of dressing the corn to be ground, by what is called *gradan*, is here still in use. By this operation they save the trouble of thrashing and kiln-drying the grain. Fire is set to the straw, and the flame and heat parches the grain; it is then made into meal in the *quern*. This

Skye.

Climate.

Parches corn.

Sky. meal looks very black, but tastes well enough, and is esteemed very wholesome. The whole of the work is performed by the women. The only apology given by themselves for this mode of preparing the grain is, that the quantity of grain which the generality have is very small, and many of them are at a great distance from a mill. The cattle do not want the straw, because they lie out all winter in good pasture; and as snow does not lie long on the ground, they can always have enough of food.

Cattle. The isle of Sky has long been celebrated for its excellent small breed of cattle, which never fail to bring a considerable price when sold in Scotland to be fattened on the southern pastures. The number of sheep reared here is also very considerable. It is to be observed, that the general diffusion of sheep over the Highlands and Islands, which has of late become a favourite object, does by no means tend to the destruction of the ancient breed of cattle; on the contrary, the sheep that are reared, are in many cases almost so much clear profit; because on the bleak mountains the cattle could obtain no food, where the sheep, being a smaller animal, find abundance. The valleys, which are the only parts of the pastures suitable to their nature, are still allotted to the cattle, while the mountains are set apart as a sheep-walk. Thus, although enormous quantities of sheep are now reared in the Highlands, where only a trifling number, to supply woollen for clothing, were found formerly; yet great numbers of cattle still come from thence to the markets of the south. The numbers are indeed diminished, but not in the proportion that was originally apprehended. As the population, in many parts of the Highlands, has greatly diminished, it is not improbable that almost as many cattle now come from thence as came a century ago. Great numbers of sheep and cattle are annually sold at the two fairs of Portree.

The wild birds of Sky are common to the other islands of the Hebrides; as, wild geese and ducks, gulls, cormorants, cranes, eagles, crows, ravens, rooks, cuckoos, rails, woodcocks, moorfowls, partridges, plovers, wild pigeons, &c. Besides other reptiles, there are three species of serpents common to this island; the first, spotted black and white, and very pernicious; the second yellow, with brown spots; and the third, of a brown colour, the smallest and least poisonous. The people are strong, robust, healthy, and prolific. They for the most part profess the protestant religion; are honest, brave, and hospitable. They speak the language, wear the habit, and observe the customs, of the other inhabitants of the Hebrides and Western Highlands. They bring up their children in the hardiest manner, allowing them to run without shoes or stockings till they are eight or ten years old. They live hardy themselves, using no bed except a layer of heath, with a coverlet of rug spread over them. The gentlemen live in the same stile, and with the same or greater luxury, than their countrymen in the south of Scotland; inasmuch as all sorts of game and fish, which in other places can only be procured at a great expence, are here easily obtained. Some peculiarities are noticed by strangers; such as, that here, as well as in other parts of the Highlands, a glass of whisky is drank the first thing in the morning. A stranger is seldom allowed the privilege of refusal, because the duties of hospitality would not have been properly fulfilled if he were suffered to depart without this favourite cordial. It may be remarked, however, that in the West Highlands the moisture of the climate may render this custom not only harmless but salutary. Not only do persons of undoubted sobriety belonging to the country comply with it, but it is certain that strangers going thither find themselves less

Sky.

Manners.

Sky. affected by spirituous liquors than in the south of Scotland. The keen air of the mountains, loaded as it is with moisture from a vast ocean, fortifies the nerves, or renders them insensible to the stimulus alluded to. Nor does this occur from habit, or in consequence of any gradual change of constitution. The same man, who in Edinburgh would be totally disordered by tasting ardent spirits in the morning, or before dinner, and who would feel himself considerably injured at any time by a very moderate quantity taken undiluted, after a very few days residence in the West Highlands, especially if engaged in the sports of the field, drinks whisky, without injury or hesitation, like a Highlander.

In the Highlands, the breakfast is a principal meal. Accustomed to be out among the hills shooting or hunting, a Highland gentleman seldom thinks of dinner. On this account the breakfast table is plentifully stored with all or most of the following articles: Tea, oat cakes, and biscuits, for wheat-bread is seldom to be seen; butter, cheese, eggs, hung beef, broiled salmon, or kipper as it is called, ham, tongues, marmalade, honey, and fresh herrings, where they can be had. Wherever you call you are presented with spirits, except in the poorest cottages, where they offer milk.

Minerals. In Sky many valuable minerals have been discovered, but none have been wrought to any advantage. In many places the hills exhibit marks of volcanic fire. In the parish of Strath limestone and marl are abundant; and there is some marble of an inferior quality. Near the village of Sleat are found marcasites of various kinds, and finely variegated pebbles. A valley near Loch Fallart produces fine agates; and many of the rivulets contain topazes, washed down from the hills by mountain torrents. Rock crystals, and other precious stones, are also found after

heavy rains among the sand at the foot of the hills. The south and west coasts abound with coral, both red and white. Sky.

Several vestiges of antiquity are to be found in Sky. One of the most remarkable of these is the Castle of Dunvegan. It stands on a high rock, over a loch of the same name, a branch of Loch Fallart. Part of it has been repaired in the modern taste, but the greater portion of it is ancient. The oldest part is a square tower, which, with a wall round the edge of the rock, was the original fortification. Dunvegan castle.

"In this castle," says Mr Pennant, "is preserved the Braolanchshi, or Fairy Flag, of the family, bestowed on it by Titania, the Ben-Shi, or wife of Oberon king of the fairies. She blessed it, at the same time, with powers of the first importance, which were to be exerted only on three occasions; but on the last, after the end was obtained, an invisible being is to arrive and carry off the standard and standard-bearer never more to be seen. A family of Clan-y-Faitter had this dangerous office, and held it by their lands in Braccadale. The flag has been produced thrice; the first time, in an unequal engagement against the Clan Ronald, to whose sight the M'Leods were multiplied tenfold; the second preserved the heir of the family, being produced to save the longings of the lady of the family; and the third time to save my own; but it was so tattered that Titania did not seem to think it worth sending for. This was a superstition derived from the Norwegian ancestry of the house. The fable was caught from the country, and might be of use to animate the clan. The Danes had their magical standard, *Raefans*, or the Raven, embroidered in an instant by the three daughters of Lodbroke, and sisters of Hinguar, Hubbar, or Ivar. Sigurd had an enchanted flag, given Fairy flag.

Sky. him by his mother, with circumstances somewhat similar to the Dunvegan colours; whosoever bore it in the day of battle was to be killed. Accordingly, in one of his battles three standard-bearers were successively slain; but on the death of the last he obtained the victory. Here is preserved a great ox-horn tipped with silver. The arm was twisted round its spires, the mouth brought over the elbow, and then drank off. The northern nations held this species of cup in high esteem, and used the capacious horns of the great aurochs. They graced the hospitable halls of kings; and out of them the ancient heroes quenched their thirst."

Old armour. In this castle is also preserved a round shield made of iron, that, even in its decayed state, weighs near twenty pounds, itself a load in these degenerate days; yet they were in use no longer ago than the century before last. Each chieftain had his armour-bearer, who preceded his master in time of war: and such was their attachment to the military character, that on all formal occasions, even in time of peace, they used the same solemnity. In going to church, they marched in the same state. In earlier times the Scots used targets made of oak, covered with the hides of bulls; and also long shields, narrow below and broad above, formed of pieces of oak or willow, secured with iron. They had also a guard for their shoulders called *scapul*; and for offensive weapons had the bow, sword, the two-handed sword, and Lochaber axe, a weapon likewise of Norwegian origin: but the image tombs of ancient warriors are the best lectures on this subject. To the list of offensive weapons used by the Scotch may be added leaden mallets and Jedburgh staves; the latter are described by Major.

In the stream called Sinzort, which runs northward from the centre of the island, a lake is formed, on which

are the ruins of a large ancient church or cathedral, which probably was the metropolitan church of the island. Sky.

In all parts of Sky, along the coast, considerable numbers of the round buildings here called Duns are to be found. Abundance of cairns are also seen, and ruins of Roman catholic chapels.

Though not peculiar to this or any other island, but to the whole islands of Scotland, we may here take notice of the celebrated musical instrument, the bagpipe, of such universal use among the ancient Caledonians or Highlanders. As in feudal times every chieftain was a prince, and had his officers of state, who had lands allotted to them for their subsistence, so the piper was a regular appendage to their dignity; and some of those gentlemen, who are fond of ancient customs, have still one, to whom they allot a portion of land. The M'Donalds and M'Leods had each of them anciently a sort of college of pipers; and as all possessions and privileges were in a great degree hereditary, it would appear that even the office of piper was hereditary in certain families. The M'Carters were chief pipers to M'Donald, and the M'Crumes to M'Leod. The bagpipe does not belong to the Lowlands of Scotland, but to the ancient Gael-Dun or Highlanders; and with them it has always been a favourite instrument. The bagpipe has two varieties: the one with short pipes, played on with the fingers; the other with long pipes, and sounded with the mouth. This, which is the loudest and most ear-piercing of all music, is the genuine Highland pipe, and suited well the warlike genius of the people; rouzed their courage to battle, alarmed them when secure, and collected them when scattered; solaced them in their long and painful marches; and in times of peace kept up the memory of the gallantry of their ancestors by tunes composed after signal victories; and too often kept up the spirit of re- History of the bagpipe.

Sky. venge, by airs expressive of defeats or massacres from rival clans. Neither of these instruments were the invention of the Danes, or, as is commonly supposed, of any of the northern nations; for their ancient writers prove them to have been animated by the *clangor tubarum*. Notwithstanding they have had their *sæck-pipe* long amongst them, as their old songs prove, yet we cannot allow them the honour of inventing this melodious instrument, but must assert that they borrowed it from the invaded Caledonians. We must still go farther, and deprive even that ancient race of the credit, and derive its origin from the mild climate of Italy, perhaps from Greece. There is now in Rome a most beautiful *bas relievo*, a Grecian sculpture of the highest antiquity, of a bagpiper playing on his instrument exactly like a modern Highlander. The Greeks had their instrument composed of a pipe and blown-up skin; the Romans, in all probability, borrowed it from them, and introduced it among their swains, who still use it under the names of *piva* and *cornu musa*. That master of music, Nero, used one; and had not the empire been so suddenly deprived of that great artist, he would (as he graciously declared his intention) have treated the people with a concert, and, among other curious instruments, would have introduced the *utricularius* or bagpipe. Nero perished; but the figure of the instrument is preserved on one of his coins, but highly improved by that great master. It has the bag and two of the vulgar pipes, but was blown with a bellows like an organ, and had on one side a row of nine unequal pipes, resembling the *syrinx* of the god Pan. The bagpipe, in the unimproved state, is also represented in an ancient sculpture, and appears to have had two long pipes or drones, and a single short pipe for the fingers. Tradition says that the kind played on by the mouth was the

troduced by the Danes. This they may have done, as the trumpet or wind-music was used in their native country. The bagpipe, however, must he considered as an instrument which for many ages has been characteristic of the ancient Gael. Sky.

Non tuba in usu illis, conjecta at tibia in utrem
Dat belli signum, et Martem vocat horrida in arma.
Melvini Topog. Scotiæ.

On the eastern side of Sky, and forming a part of one of its parishes, is the Island of Raasay. Raasay is about twelve miles long, and from two and a half to five in breadth. On the west Raasay rises, with a seemingly easy ascent, to a great height above the sea, and terminates in a small, round, and green hill, flat at the top, and faced with rock, called *Dun-lan*. On the east side of the island the coast is also very high, and so steep as to approach to the perpendicular. Between Dun-lan and the southern shore are two lakes of fresh water. On the same side of this hill are some fine old trees, and a great quantity of natural wood of younger growth. Towards the northern end of the isle is a large tract of fair pasture ground. Here and there are precipices dangerous to the cattle. In those parts of the lower grounds which approach to the character of morass, the dwarfish shrub bog-gall grows in great profusion. The soil is, for the greater part, peat-earth, sandy, or a light gravel. The climate is singularly moist, rain being calculated to fall in this isle for about nine months in the year. Many rivulets descend from the side of Dun-lan, and among the other eminences. Raasay has scarcely any wild quadrupeds, but wild fowls in great abundance; black cocks, moor-fowl, plovers, and wild pigeons. In the lakes and rivulets are trouts, eels, and salmon. Sea-fishes in great variety swarm on the shores. The whole isle belongs to M'Leod of Raa-

Raasay. say, the representative of a family who are said to have been anciently proprietors of the Isle of Lewis. It may contain between 800 and 1000 inhabitants. Black cattle are the chief produce of the isle; and the annual exportation of quantities of these brings the money with which the rents are paid. Sheep, goats, and small horses, are also fed here in sufficient numbers. All the inhabitants have fishing boats, and the fishes they take round the shores form no small part of their provisions. Grey oats, barley, and potatoes, are raised here in a similar proportion as to quantity, and by the same practices of cultivation, as the contiguous isles. Raasay has in it abundance of limestone. Round the family-seat of the proprietor, are fields affording excellent grass and corn. His garden is plentifully stocked with pot-herbs, flowers, and fruit-bearing shrubs. There are in Raasay inexhaustible quarries of excellent freestone, and plenty of limestone. Near a quarry of the latter is a calcareous petrifying spring.

Castle Broichin. Castle Broichin, situated near the north end of Raasay, on the east coast, is a land-mark well known to mariners. The rock on which it stands is nearly round, and covering an area of little more than seventy feet square; is about forty feet high, except in one place, where was the stair that led to it; and is itself, castle-like, placed on another rock, sixty feet at least above the level of the sea. It is a pudding-stone, composed of different kinds of burnt stone, lime, and shell, that have all the appearance of being jumbled together some time or other by a volcanic eruption; and is of such firm and solid consistence, that the largest hammer, wielded by the strongest arm, could scarcely make any impression upon it. There are several rocks of the same kind in that part of the island; one of which, more curious than the rest, rises higher than that on which the castle stands close by it, like an old and ruinous wall,

from five to eight feet broad and forty long, and in most places it is covered with ivy. This curious rock, on account of its ruinous and decayed appearance, was called Broichin, and from it the castle got its name. The castle was built with stone and lime; is two stories high, besides an attic one; the rooms are all very small, except one, supposed to be the kitchen, and two others about eleven feet square and as many high, in which are chimneys. In the middle was a small open court, in which was a well; but whether supplied with water from a fountain in the hill above, or from the rock itself, is not known. It is not long since the last part of the roof came down, and some broken joists still remain sticking out in the sides of some of the rooms. John Garble is said to be the last who lived in it. This John Garble was one of the predecessors of the present laird of Raasay, and lived in the time of James the Sixth of Scotland. He is said to have been an uncommonly stout man, and many stories are related of his acts of prowess; a large round stone is shown, about the middle of the island, near the high road, which they say John Garble could easily lift. Such is its weight, that the united strength of two of their stoutest men could now scarcely move it; but the people are fond of representing their forefathers as a gigantic race, and allege that the human race in modern times have greatly degenerated. In one of their old Catholic chapels, they show the bones of a man who must have been of great stature, and they preserve these bones with religious care, as a testimony of the size and strength of their forefathers. Raasay.

Immediately to the southward of Raasay, is the Island of Scalpa, between the isle of Sky and the mainland. It is three miles in length, and from one to two in breadth. The surface is rocky, but not altogether barren. In the highest

Raasay

part of it is a petrified rock of moss, in which are a variety of shells; and in many other places throughout the higher parts of the island, great quantities of shells are found several feet under ground.

Southward from Scalpa is the small Island of Pabbay, about a mile in length, and three quarters of a mile in breadth. It is uninhabited, and only used for pasturing cattle. On the shore are to be seen, in the rocks and stones, petrified fish of different sizes, generally indeed below ten inches; but there are eels of nearly double the length. Some appear whole, and others broken; and when struck forcibly with a stone or hammer, they often split in two, and the marks of the bones are visible in the rocks. In one place are great indications of iron ore; at its northern extremity are the remains of a small chapel.

Ronay

To the northward of Raasay is the island of Ronay, which is about four miles in length and nearly two in breadth. It is the property of M'Leod of Raasay. It is rocky and barren, but affords pasture to 160 cattle. It has a good bay or harbour, but no vessels put into it unless forced by the weather or other accidents.

Fladday.

Fladday is a green islet, lying to the northward of Ronay. It is about two miles in circumference, and its coasts abound in fish.

Smaller isles.

On the western side of Sky, attached to the parish of Braccadale, are the islands of Haversay, Vusay, Oronsay, Soay. These islands are not inhabited, but are only pendicles to the different farms on the shore that are opposite to them, and afford pasture for cattle during part of the summer and winter seasons. Last of all, we must take notice of the Isle of Egg.

Egg

Egg is situated south from Sky, and about eight miles west from the point of Arasaick, which is the near-

est part of the mainland. It forms one of a group of small islands called Cannay, Rum, Muck, and Egg, which form a parish called the Parish of Small Isles. The remaining islands of the parish are politically annexed to Argyleshire. Egg is about four or five miles in length, and from two to three in breadth. A small hollow or valley runs across it, called in Gaelic *Eagg*, from which the island has its name. The surface is partly flat, but chiefly hilly and rocky. The hills are covered with heath, which in some places is mixed with coarse grass. The low grounds are tolerably fertile. Barley, oats, potatoes, flax, cabbage, and open kail, or coleworts, are produced on it; but the crops of grain are apt to fail in rainy seasons. The black-faced sheep of the south have here been introduced. Birds of prey are numerous; but some grouse and pigeons, and a few wild ducks, are here found. Puffins are found in considerable numbers, which, though sea-fowls, lay and hatch sometimes at a great distance from the shore, even near the tops of high hills. Their young, before they leave the nest, are as large as the dam, transparent with fat, and delicious to the taste of many. It is believed that the young puffin becomes so weighty with fat, as to be unable to take to the wing and leave its nest. To remedy this inconvenience, the old puffin is said to administrate sorrel to extenuate and render it fit for flying. It is, at any rate, a known fact, that sorrel is commonly found to grow near the puffin's nest. Egg.

On the south coast of Egg there is a small island, called Eillan Chastel, which is good for pasture, and a pendicle of a contiguous farm in Egg. A few persons tending cattle live on it during a part of the summer months only. The sound between this island and Egg makes a tolerable harbour for a few vessels not exceeding seventy tons. It has two entrances, one from the south-west and another

Egg. from the south-east, with a pier for fishing boats. In various parts of the coast of Egg are bodies of freestone. On the north-west side of the island is a rock of shelly limestone, yielding fine lime, if fuel could be obtained to calcine it. Along the coast rocks are to be found of a very light and porous quality. Basaltic pillars are to be seen, not only near the sea, but near the tops of the highest hills. Even Scure Egg, the highest hill in the island, seems to be principally formed of rock that has much of a basaltic

Caverns. appearance. On the south-west side of the island there is a cave, called *Uamba Chrabhuidh*, "the Cave of Devotion," in which the Roman catholic inhabitants were wont to attend mass in the time of the reformation. Their altar is still to be seen. Its roof is irregularly arched; its height at the entrance about sixty feet, its length 220 feet, and its breadth thirty feet. Near the entrance of this cave some part of the rock seems to have been once in a liquefied state. At no great distance, east of this cave, is *Uamba Fhraine*, "the Cave of Francis," remarkable, not only for its form, but also for the murder of the inhabitants of this island by Alistair Crotaeh, laird of M'Leod. The entrance of this cave is so small, that a person must creep on four for about twelve feet; it then becomes pretty capacious, its length being 213 feet, breadth twenty-two, and height seventeen. With regard to the murder above mentioned, it is said that some of M'Leod's vassals, returning from Glasgow, touched at the harbour of Egg. Some women belonging to Egg were then tending cattle in Eillan Chastel, the small island which forms the harbour. The strangers visited and maltreated the women. Their friends having got information, pursued and destroyed these strangers. This treatment of his vassals M'Leod considered as an insult, and came in force to revenge their death. The inhabitants, apprised of their dan-

ger, flocked to this cave for concealment, excepting three, Egg.
who took to other places of refuge, and a boat's crew, then in Glasgow. M'Leod, after landing, having found no inhabitants, believed they had fled to the mainland, and resolved to return immediately to Sky. The people in the cave, impatient of their confinement, sent a scout to reconnoitre, who imprudently showed himself upon an eminence, where he was readily observed by the enemy, then actually under sail for Sky. Unfortunately for the inhabitants, there was new-fallen snow upon the ground. M'Leod landed again, and tracing the scout to the cave's mouth, smoked them all to death. The bones are still to be seen. About forty sculls have been lately numbered here. It is probable that a greater number were destroyed; but if so, they must have been carried off and buried by their friends.

On one farm, near a popish chapel, is a tumulus, said to be the burial-place of Donnan, the tutelary saint of Egg. It lies in a field of arable ground, and the thin flag covering the sepulchral urn in which Donnan's remains had been deposited, was some years ago exposed by the plough; upon which the urn, being a large round hollow stone, was taken up and examined, and found to contain a number of bones, but no scull appeared among them. It was again buried at the distance of a few yards from the place where it formerly lay.

Concerning all these isles, it may be remarked, that the inhabitants of the coasts, and of the small islands, are all excellent fishermen. In general, however, all persons have a small possession of land; but at Portree, in Sky, is a village, in which are a considerable number of inhabitants, which may be considered as fishermen, strictly so called, as they occupy no lands, and depend for their whole subsistence upon the ocean. Between Sky and the isles of Har-

Herrings. ris, or Long Island, cod and ling are found in no less abundance than around the Shetland Isles; and, above all, the shoals of herring never fail to visit this part of Scotland. In a political point of view, the fisheries form, perhaps, the most important object connected with this western territory. As we have hitherto said little upon that subject, we shall here take some notice of that branch of natural history, the emigrations of herrings.

Herring shoals. It is to be remarked, then, that herrings, as well as mackerel, cod-fish, whitings, haddocks, and some others, may with propriety be called *fish of passage*; for they bear a strong analogy to birds of that description, both from their social disposition and their immense numbers. Other fish reside on our coasts, and live in particular lakes and rivers all the year round: but these, at stated seasons, visit the shores with regular certainty; generally returning the same week in the succeeding year, and not unfrequently the same day. Herrings are found in the greatest abundance in the highest northern latitudes within the arctic circle. In these inaccessible seas, which are covered with ice during much the greatest part of the year, the herrings find a quiet and secure retreat from their numerous enemies. There, neither all-devouring man, who makes the inhabitants of the earth, air, and water, his prey, nor that still more destructive enemy, the whale, dares to pursue them. Here, however, they were not intended to remain in security, but were destined, by the Author of Nature, to serve the purpose of supplying myriads of created beings with food; and for this purpose an insurmountable instinct prompts them to leave their secure retreats.

The great colony of herrings sets out from the Icy Sea about the middle of winter, composed of such numbers as exceed all the powers of imagination; but no sooner

do they leave their glassy dominions than millions of ene- Herrings.
mies appear to thin their squadrons. The sun-fish and the cachelot devour hundreds of them at a mouthful; the porpus, the grampus, cod-fish, haddock, as well as the whole tribe of dog-fish, find them an easy prey; and the ravenous shark desists from pursuing the above mentioned fish to attack the herring. Besides these enemies in their own element, they meet with others, still more formidable, in the myriads of sea-fowl inhabiting the regions near the pole, that watch the outset of the migration, and spread extensive ruin. Thus besieged on every side, the defenceless emigrants find no safety but in crowding closer together, and leaving to the outmost bands the danger of being first devoured. The main body begins, at a certain latitude, to separate into two grand divisions: one of which moves westward, and pours down the coast of America, as far south as Carolina; and are often so numerous in the Chesapeak Bay as to become a nuisance to the shores. The other division takes a more eastern direction towards Europe, and falls in with the great island of Iceland about the beginning of March. Upon their arrival on that coast, their phalanx, though it has already suffered considerable diminution, is nevertheless found to be of amazing extent, depth, and closeness, occupying a surface equal at least to the dimensions of both Great Britain and Ireland, and subdivided into columns of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth; each division or column being led, according to the idea of the most experienced fishermen, by herrings of more than ordinary size, older perhaps than the others, and which, having made a considerable number of voyages, may be capable of conducting their different bands to their destined places. They generally swim near the surface, but sink now and then for a few minutes. The leaders of those which visit the British

Herrings. kingdoms appear off Shetland in April or May, and the grand body begins to be perceived in June. The fishers are apprized of their coming by a small rustling of the water, the reflection of their brilliancy, and the great number of gannets or soland geese, and other aerial persecutors, which feast richly on this offered bounty; and along with the whales and other fish, may be one great cause of the shoals crowding into bays and creeks, where they are caught by fishermen with so much ease. When they arrive at the Shetland islands new enemies await them: whole fleets of fishing vessels, with all the apparatus of shotting, are in readiness, on a fixed day, to drag the ocean; thereby snatching from the shoals perhaps millions every night from June till September.

The Shetland islands, where the herrings meet with the first interruption to their progress southward, lie at the distance of 100 miles due north from the mainland of Scotland, and extend near sixty miles in length; and though these islands break and separate the great body of herrings into two parts, the wanderers still continue their course southward. One division proceeds down the east side of Britain, goes along the Moray Frith, the coasts of Aberdeen, Angus, and Fife, the great river Forth, the coast of Scarborough, and particularly the far-projecting land at Yarmouth, the ancient and only mart for herrings in England. Here they appear in October, and are found in considerable quantities till Christmas. Passing through the Channel, some of them pay a slight visit to the north coast of France, but are so exhausted and impoverished as to be of little or no use.

The other brigade shape their course from the Shetland islands along the west coast of Britain; and these are observed to be much larger and fatter, as well as considerably more abundant, than those on the east side. Af-

ter passing the Shetland and Orkney isles; they crowd in amazing quantities into the lakes, bays, and narrow channels of the shires of Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness, which, with the Hebrides, compose the greatest stationary herring-fishing in Britain, excepting that upon the coast of Shetland. Sometimes the shoal edges close upon the extensive coast of Argyleshire, and fills every bay and creek; and almost always the Frith of Clyde, Loch Fyne, Loch Long, and other arms of the sea, the coast of Airshire and of Galloway, even to the head of Solway Frith. Having performed this friendly office to the western shores of Scotland, the shoal proceeds towards the north of Ireland, where, meeting with another interruption, they are subdivided into two bodies: one passes down the Irish Channel, visits the Isle of Man, where they are caught in great abundance, and affords an occasional supply to the east coast of Ireland, and sometimes to the west coast of England, as far as Bristol Channel; the other shoal skirts along the west coast of Ireland, where, after visiting some of the lakes, particularly in the county of Donegal, it gradually disappears, and is finally lost in the immensity of the Atlantic. So bountiful is providence to the inhabitants of the British isles in one article of food only. Though there may be no doubt that the ultimate end of this migration is to supply the northern parts of Europe and America with food, and thus atone for the seeming partiality of nature to more southern climes, the immediate cause of it is their strong desire to remove to warmer seas for the sake of depositing their spawn, where it will vivify with more certainty than under the frigid zone. It cannot be from defect of food that they leave the polar regions, whatever that food may be; for they come to us full of fat, and on their return are generally observed to be very lean. They are in full roe at Herrings

Herrings. the end of June, and continue in perfection till the commencement of winter, when they begin to deposite their spawn.

Dutch fisheries. Blessed as this country is with shoals of fish, and possessing such advantages for carrying on the fisheries, comparatively little has been done by the Highlanders in this trade. What has been performed was done by individuals in a small way. Very few great capitals have been employed. Indeed, till within a very few years, the chief of our fisheries, viz. those in the Shetland isles have been in the hands of a people who possess no natural advantages. To these fisheries on our own coasts the Dutch chiefly owed their wealth; or, at any rate, they were the means by which this industrious people raised themselves to a state of opulence. Originally they appear to have been nothing more than fishermen, collected from different quarters of the world, to a place where they could enjoy freedom of traffic; and living in huts erected upon a spot called *Damsluys*, they pursued with industry, and under wise and excellent regulations, the herring-fisheries on the British coasts, sold their fish to many parts of the world, and brought back commodities which they themselves wanted, and merchandize, which they exported to different parts: so that their ships were never empty, but always loaded, wherever they went, with some object of traffic. Sir William Manson, speaking of their ships being thus constantly employed, aptly compares them to a weaver's shuttle, which he casts with one hand to another, and which he keeps ever in action, till the gain appears by the cloth that he makes. By persevering in this industrious mode of life, the poor fishing village of Damsluys gradually increased. As the inhabitants gained means, the huts were converted into comfortable situations; these into splendid

dwellings; and the whole became by degrees metamorphosed into the opulent city of Amsterdam. Dutch Fisheries.

The disadvantages the Dutch laboured under were great; but industry overcomes every obstacle, and converts the most barren spots into seats of plenty. Their own country was so poor in natural productions, that for almost every article requisite to conduct these fisheries they had recourse to foreign nations. Their timber for ship-building, the iron, hemp, cordage, barrels, and even their bread, is brought from other countries; while Scotland supplies most of them, and England all. They had, besides, a considerable navigation to make to come at the fisheries, and at a stormy season of the year, while we have the fish at our own doors. Notwithstanding these advantages in our favour, the Dutch have till lately been the only persons who profited by herring-fishery, as appears from different accounts. According to Sir Walter Raleigh, in the year 1603, the Dutch sold to different nations as many herrings as amounted to L.1,759,000. In the year 1615 they employed in this fishery 2000 busses and 37,000 fishermen. In 1618 they sent no less than 3000 busses, with 50,000 men, to the herring-fisheries. Besides this, 9000 other vessels were employed to transport and sell the fish: which last occupations employed 150,000 men by sea and land, in addition to those immediately engaged in the fisheries. Thus did our industrious neighbours increase the number of their vessels and seamen, supply half the world with food, and raise themselves to opulence, at our expence. It is to the Shetland islands that the Dutch have chiefly resorted; and a particular account of the manner in which they conduct their fisheries there is given by Sir William Manson.

From the Texel to Bra Sound in Shetland is upwards of 230 leagues. To the latter place, about the 20th of

Dutch Fisheries.

June, at least 2000 fishing vessels in his time resorted. On the 24th they put to sea, being prohibited till that day under a severe penalty, as the herrings are before that not thought fit for salting. Each of these vessels, on that day, directs its course to find out the shoal of herrings. When they have loaded their busses, they return to Holland, and leave their cargo, which is immediately repacked and sent to the Baltic and other parts of the world. As soon as the busses furnished themselves with victuals, casks, and salt, they revisited the shoal they had left, and filled again as quickly as possible, returned to Holland and unloaded. This they generally did three times in the season; and during that period, on the most moderate computation, each buss took 100 casts of herring, which being valued at L.10 the last, amounted to L.1000 for each vessel. The fishing fleet was often attended by certain vessels, called *yaugers*, that carried, salt, casks, and victuals, to barter with the busses for their herrings, which they carried directly to the Baltic.

British fishery.

The Dutch fishery has been brought to a close in consequence of the conquest of Holland by the French, and of that country being thereby involved in the war between Britain and France. Great efforts have also been made to direct the industry of our countrymen into this channel, and not without success. We have already remarked, that in the Shetland isles every proprietor of lands is now engaged in the fishing trade. English companies send vessels to the Pentland Frith and the Orkney isles, and their vessels convey powdered cod regularly to the London market. On all the coasts, both on the east and the west, the shoals of herrings are zealously pursued, every season, by great numbers of vessels or busses, from all the towns, and even villages, in the vicinity of the Frith of Clyde;

and thus a considerable market is afforded to the fishermen of the isles and coasts of the ocean for the produce of their industry. British Fishery.

The following Table will explain the state of the population of the different parishes of Inverness-shire. Population.

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			Total of Persons.
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	
Alvie and Inch	1021	1011	489	569	128	29	901	1058
Ardersier	428	1298	479	562	88	115	838	1041
Ardnamurchan	—	—	1030	1155	1690	37	438	2165
Barray....	1150	1604	899	1026	449	17	1459	1925
Braccadale....	1907	2250	819	1046	1817	48	—	1865
Cromdale	3063	3000	979	1208	779	170	1238	2187
Croy.....	1901	1552	489	550	292	56	691	1039
Daviot and Dunlichty	2176	1697	842	976	439	55	1324	1818
Duthes, Boleskine, and Abertarff..	1961	1741	1380	1733	2063	88	962	3113
Duirnish....	2568	3000	1519	1808	1569	109	1649	3327
Glenelg.....	1816	2746	1358	1476	2795	39	—	2834
Glenmoriston	—	—	306	383	182	11	496	689
Harris, first and second division....	1969	2536	890	1042	1847	85	—	1932
Ditto, second divis.	—	—	490	574	1040	24	—	1064
Inverness, first division	9730	10527	291	379	7	144	519	670
Ditto, second	—	—	776	939	124	97	1494	1715
Ditto, third	—	—	486	580	101	29	936	1066
Ditto, fourth	—	—	2165	3116	36	1119	4126	5281
Kilmalie, Invern. div.	3093	4031	1480	1761	1907	181	1153	3241
Carry over	32783	36993	17167	20883	17353	2453	19224	39030

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons	Total of Persons
Brought over	32783	36993	17167	20883	17353	2453	19224	39030
Kilmanivaig	2795	2400	1177	1364	975	66	1500	2541
Kilmorack, east divis.	2830	2318	667	828	318	92	1085	1495
Ditto, west	—	—	408	463	185	53	633	871
Kilmuir	1572	2065	1164	1391	459	36	2060	2555
Kiltarlitty	1964	2495	1171	1417	611	143	1834	2588
Kincardine	—	—	223	307	70	31	429	530
Kingussie	1900	1983	578	728	970	58	278	1306
Kirkhill	1360	1570	688	894	186	80	1316	1582
Laggan	1460	1512	609	724	185	18	1130	1333
Moy and Dalrossie	1693	1813	578	743	650	40	631	1321
Petty	1643	1518	685	900	770	95	720	1585
Portree	1385	1980	1030	1216	411	121	1714	2246
Rothiemurchus	—	—	214	251	34	68	363	465
Sleat	1250	1788	858	1045	940	101	862	1903
Small Isles (Isle of Egg)	—	—	217	283	67	16	417	500
Snizort	1627	1808	991	1153	330	55	1759	2144
Strath	943	1579	827	921	1863	38	147	1748
Uist, first division	2209	3450	1446	1552	2858	59	81	2998
Ditto, second	—	—	784	813	1507	53	37	1597
Uist, North	1909	3218	1450	1560	2699	102	209	3010
Urquhart	1943	2355	869	1075	927	85	932	1944
Total	64656	73979	33801	40491	34068	3864	36361	74292

ARGYLESHIRE.

Situation. THE county of Argyle forms the south-western part of the Highlands of Scotland, and has a great number of islands united to it. The continental part of Argyleshire (exclusive of the islands belonging to that county), is situated between 55° 21′ and 57° north latitude, and between 1° 22′ and 3° 25′ of longitude west of Edinburgh. It is bounded on the north by Inverness-shire, on the east by that county and Perthshire and Dumbarton, on the south and west by different bays and straits of the Atlantic Ocean, in which are scattered the various isles politically connected with it.

Extent. The continental part of this county can scarcely be considered in any other light than as consisting of a great number of peninsulated tracts. From the west and the south the ocean forms long and narrow bays, which run far into the country, dividing it into a great number of narrow districts. Of twenty-seven parishes only one is island; but it is the peculiar characteristic of Argyleshire, as well as of the rest of the West Highlands, that although entirely maritime, it is nevertheless a mountainous country. It has about 600 miles of sea-coast, and that independent of its numerous islands. The greatest length of its continental part, from the Mull of Kintyre to the Point of Ardnamurchan (1° 30′, at the rate of sixty-nine statute miles and a half to the degree of latitude),

is 115 miles; and its greatest breadth (reckoning thirty-three miles and a half to the degree of longitude, which corresponds to the medium latitude of 50°), is above sixty-eight miles. These dimensions, however, give no correct idea of the extent of the county, on account of the strange manner in which it is intersected by water, and made to consist alternately of chains of mountains and of valleys covered by the ocean. If we cut off the peninsula of Kintyre, which is forty miles long by six and a half, at an average, in breadth (making 260 square square miles), the remaining continent, which is seventy-five miles in length, may be taken, it is thought, at the average breadth of thirty-three miles; which, added to Kintyre, will make the whole continent 2735 square miles. The islands connected with the county are supposed to make about 1063 miles more; so that the whole county, by this computation, will be 3800 square miles. This extensive county is supposed by antiquarians to have constituted nearly the whole of the territory that belonged to the tribe called the Scots, whose name was afterwards assumed by the whole nation, because their chief, Kenneth M'Alpine, by the conquest of the Picts, was enabled to put himself at the head of the most valuable part of the continent of Scotland, and thereby to transmit to his successors the means of ultimately becoming sovereigns of the whole. Extent

The county, by which we mean the continental part of the county, for we shall notice each of the isles separately, is divided into a variety of districts, not acknowledged indeed in any political point of view, but according to which its different parts are described and known both by its inhabitants and by strangers. Each division generally consists of a separate peninsula, or of the territory nearly inclosed by two arms of the sea. The most remarkable of Districts

Districts. these divisions are Kintyre, Knapdale, Cowal, Argyle Proper, Lorn, Benediralloch, Appin, Morvern, and Ardnamurchan.

Kintyre. Kintyre is the most southern district of the county, and consists of a long narrow peninsula, connected with the continent by a narrow neck of land, which was anciently what is now called in North America a carrying place; that is, the inhabitants often dragged their boats across it from sea to sea; and this neck of land was anciently guarded by a chain of forts. Kintyre, from the Tarbart to the Mull, or southern extremity, is above forty miles long, and from five to twelve miles broad. It is hilly; but when compared to other parts, it can scarcely be called mountainous. Campbeltown, one of two royal boroughs contained in the county, stands in it. The country is open, and generally naked; but near Campbeltown are some thriving plantations. The name of Kintyre is supposed to be derived from the Gaelic words, *Ceann*, "a head," and *Tire*, "of the land." It was the country of the *Epidii* of the Romans; and the extremity of the *Epidii Promontorium*, now the Mull of Kintyre, noted for the violence of the adverse tides. One of the *reguli* or chiefs of the Western Isles conquered it, and added it to the Hebrides, making an island of it, as Pennant remarks, by the *ratio ultima regum*, or at the point of the sword.

Knapdale. Knapdale is the continuation northward of Kintyre, and is a peninsula inclosed on the west side by the Sound of Jura; on the south by West Tarbart Loch; on the east by Loch Fine, and a bay stretching out from it called Loch Gilp; on the north it has Loch Crinan, connected with the Sound of Jura. Across the neck of land, between Loch Crinan and Loch Gilp, a canal has recently been

Cowal formed. Cowal is the district on the east side of Loch Fine. It is peninsulated by Loch Fine on the west

and north; by the kyle or sound which separates Argyle- Districts.
shire from the Island of Bute on the south, and by the
Frith of Clyde and Loch Long on the east. Argyle Pro- Argyle
per lies to the northward of Knapdale, and is on the Proper.
western side of Loch Long. In this district stands Inve-
rary. Although Argyle Proper has not the sea on its
western or north-western side, yet it has very much the
appearance of a peninsula, in as much as the great fresh-
water lake Loch Awe, or Loch Ow, runs along its north- Loch Awe.
western side. This is an uncommonly fine lake, second
only to Loch Lomond in picturesque beauty. A great
part of the banks consists of steep mountains, very finely
wooded. Its smooth surface is broken by islands orna-
mented with picturesque ruins. Loch Awe is about thirty
miles in length, and in some places two miles broad,
though the average breadth of it does not exceed one
mile. Its surface is 108 feet above the level of the sea.
Besides the great number of rivulets and streams which
run into this lake, on both sides, from the neighbouring
hills, contrary to most lakes, it receives a considerable ri-
ver at each extremity, and discharges itself laterally into
Loch Etive, an arm of the sea to the north, at a place
called Bunaw. The lake abounds with salmon, trout,
and some char. It likewise contains plenty of eels, which
are held in abhorrence by the common people of the High-
lands, who consider this fish as a water serpent unfit for
the use of men.

To the westward of Loch Awe is the district of Lorn, Lorn.
having on its north-western side Loch Etive. On the west
it is bounded by a variety of channels, which separate it
from several small islands; one of which is Easdale, the
most celebrated slate quarry in Scotland. To the north-
ward of Loch Etive is Benediralloch, peninsulated by
Loch Etive on the south and south-east, by Loch Creran

Districts. on the north. The district of Appin is next to this. It

Appin. has on the west the Linnhe Loch, on the north Loch Leven, which goes off from the Linnhe Loch below Fort William; and on its southern side Appin is in contact with Loch Creran and Loch Etive. Beyond the Linnhe Loch, which forms the western termination of the great Cale-

Morvern. donian Canal, is the district of Morvern on the west. It has on its south-eastern and south-western sides the Sound of Mull and the Linnhe Loch, on its northern side Loch Sunart. It has a triangular peninsula, connected with the continent by an isthmus of two or three miles in breadth, on its north-eastern side.

Ardnamurchan. The most northern district of the county is Ardnamurchan, including Sunart and Ardgour. It is connected with Morvern by the peninsula already mentioned; and on its north-eastern corner it comes into contact with Inverness-shire by an isthmus of about three miles in breadth. On all its other sides it is surrounded by water. Loch Sunart stretches far into the country, dividing it from Morvern on the south; on the south-east it has the Linnhe Loch running up to Fort William. There the loch turns towards the north-west, under the name of Loch Eil, which is only separated, as already mentioned, by a narrow neck of land from Loch Sheil. This last loch and the ocean are in contact with the northern side of Ardnamurchan.

Point of Ardnamurchan. It may be remarked, that the Point of Ardnamurchan, which is the north-west corner of Argyleshire, is the most western territory of the mainland of Scotland, and the most remarkable headland between the Mull of Kintyre on the south, and Cape Wrath, which is the north-west point of Sutherland and of Scotland, on the north. The Point of Ardnamurchan is nearly at an equal distance from the Mull of Kintyre and from Cape Wrath. In ancient

times, when the Hebrides were under the sovereignty of the M'Donalds or the Norwegians, the islands to the north of the point of Ardnamurchan were called the Northern Isles; and those to the south of that point, consisting of the isles of Argyleshire, Bute, and Kintyre, were called the Southern Isles. To this day an English Bishop derives a part of his title from them, being called or styled the Bishop of Sodar and Mann; that is, the Bishop of Mann, and of the Sodar or Southern Isles. Districts

It may be remarked, that in the county books Argyleshire is divided into the districts only of Kintyre, Cowal, Argyle, and Lorn, and that Morvern and Ardnamurchan are considered as forming a part of the district of Mull, of which the island of Mull is the principal part.

The Reverend Dr Smith of Campbeltown, in his View of the Agriculture of the County, represents the soil as of the following nature: Soil.

1,213,500 Acres may be heath, hill, and pasture
100,000 Ditto, arable
30,000 Ditto, wood
24,000 Ditto, fresh water, lakes, and rivers.

The proportion of the arable to the other grounds, as stated above, is nearly as one to twelve, being about a thirteenth of the whole. To an eye that takes but a superficial view of the face of the country, this proportion of arable will appear to be too great. But the eye is very apt to be deceived in judging of the proportion between hills and plains. To make a just comparison in this case, one must form the idea of a plain extended through the base of the hill, and compare in his mind the extent of such a plain with that which he has in view. The surface of a mountain may measure many times the extent of such a horizonal plain as it stands upon, but cannot, in

Soil and Climate.

fact, contain more trees or piles of grass than would grow on such a plain, if indeed so many.

The above proportion of arable and other lands cannot be supposed too high, when it is considered that Kintyre, which, in point of extent, is little more to the rest of the continent than as one to ten, contains of itself above 29,000 acres of arable land, computing the smaller part, that has not been surveyed, at the same rate with that which was actually measured. The proportion of arable over all will not appear to be too highly rated, when it is considered that this is more than a fourth part of it.

The climate of the lower and more southern parts of this county, differs greatly from that of the higher and more northern parts of it. The lower parts are every where so much surrounded and indented by the sea, that the atmosphere is mild and temperate. Frost seldom continues long, and snow lies rarely above two or three days at a time upon the sea-coast. But the upper and northern parts, elevated far above the level of the sea, and bordering on the Grampians, are subject to a severer atmosphere. These lofty mountains are generally covered with snow for a great part of winter, by which the air is chilled to a considerable distance. The valleys, however, among these mountains, are not, even in that inclement season, so cold or uncomfortable as might be supposed from the general aspect of the country. Most of them are low and winding, and derive a considerable degree of shelter from the surrounding mountains. Most of them also look to the south or south-east; and as the wind blows for the greater part of the year from the west and north-west, these high mountains, which generally stand in that direction, serve as a screen to ward off its blasts. The climate, in different parts of the county, is no less different in respect of wet and dry. The clouds, wafted from

the Atlantic Ocean, and breaking on the tops of the higher mountains, occasion much more frequent rains in the upper than in the lower parts along the sea-coast. Of these rains the people are apt to complain, without considering that their mountains, now covered with grass and verdure, would without them be barren and unfruitful. Soil and Climate.

A great part of this county was once covered with wood, of which every moss still shows the remains. It might have been then as desirable to get rid of some of it as it is now to rear it. But, as it often happens, men ran from one extreme to the other, and the loss was severely felt before any attempt was made to repair it. Even so late as the commencement of the late century, the woods in this county, though then sufficiently reduced in quantity, were held to be of so little value, especially in the inland parts of it, that a large fir wood in Glenorchy was sold to a company of Irish adventurers for so mere a trifle, that it is said it came to no more than a *plack* (or third of a penny) per tree. Some time after that, however, the remaining deciduous woods in the county were brought into greater estimation by means of two English companies, who set up iron forges, the one near Inverary, and the other at Bunaw. Ever since, the natural woods here have been in general tolerably cared for; and though the long leases granted to those companies of some of the woods, and the want of a sufficient competition for the rest, has hitherto kept some of them low rented, yet they are always of more value to the proprietors than any other equal extent of ground, arable land excepted. The extent of ground occupied by natural woods on the continental part of this county, having never been measured, cannot be here stated. It may probably be about 30,000 acres. But this bears so small a proportion to the extent of the county, that many large tracts of it appear altogether bare and naked. Woods.

Scenery. Of plantations, a considerable number are to be found in the county; and those belonging to the Duke of Argyle, which will be afterwards noticed, are amongst the greatest in the kingdom. In the mean time, it may be remarked, that woods, whether natural or planted, abound to such a degree, that, together with the numerous mountain torrents which descend along every glen and the lakes or arms of the sea, they produce a vast variety of pleasing scenery. It would be in vain for us to attempt an enumeration of objects of this sort in an extensive and broken district like Argyleshire. To persons of a certain temper, this part of Scotland is all classic ground, the birthplace of heroes, and the native land of the most sublime species of romance. The heroes of the race of Fion or Fingal resided in this territory; and here the celebrated Celtic bard Ossian was born, and the traditions of the country are still full of the exploits of the heroes whom he celebrates. We shall satisfy ourselves with taking notice of a few of the spots which have been most generally visited. One of the highest mountains of Cruachan. the county is Cruachan, or Cruachan Beinn, a lofty mountain situated at the head of Loch Awe. The perpendicular height, as measured by Colonel Watson, is 3390 feet above the level of the sea, and the circumference at the base exceeds twenty miles. It is very steep towards the north-east, and slopes gently down on the south, but rises with an abrupt ascent near the summit, which is divided into two points, each resembling a sugar loaf. It was the north point which was measured by Colonel Watson, the southern one being thirty feet lower. The sides of the mountain are covered with natural woods of birch, alder, oak, and fir, which abound with roes and red deer. On the summit of this mountain was the fatal spring, from which, according to a tradition of the country,

attributed to Ossian, issued Loch Awe. Cruachan is the weather-gage of the people within view of its lofty summit. Before a storm, "the spirit of the mountain shrieks," and its head and sides are enveloped with clouds. It is mostly composed of reddish porphyry; but near the bottom is found argillacous schistus, intersected with veins of quartz and *lapis ollaris*. The porphyry seems to consist of a kind of trap of a dirty red colour, with flesh-coloured crystals of feldt-spar, some crystals of black schorl, and a very few of greenish-coloured mica. On the top of the mountain the sea-pink grows luxuriantly, and sea-shells have been found on the very summit. Scenery.

The story of the fatal spring on the summit of Cruachan, which, bursting forth, overwhelmed the valley and formed Loch Awe, is contained in one of the ancient traditionary Celtic poems of the country, and which has been translated by Dr Smith of Campbeltown.

"Bera the aged dwelt in the cave of the rock. She was the daughter of Griannan the sage. Long was the line of her fathers, and she was the last of her race. Large and fertile were her possessions; hers the beautiful vales below; and hers the cattle which roamed on the hills around. To Bera was committed the charge of that awful spring, which by the appointment of fate was to prove so fatal to the inheritance of her fathers and her fathers race. Before the sun should withdraw his beams, she was to cover the spring with a stone, on which sacred and mysterious characters were impressed. One night this was forgot by the unhappy Bera. Overcome with the heat and chace of the day, she was seized with sleep before the usual hour of rest. The confined waters of the mountain burst forth into the plain below, and covered the large expanse, now known by the name of the lake of Awe. The third morning Bera awaked from her sleep. Tale of Bera.

Scenery. She went to remove the stone from the spring; but, behold! no stone was there: She looked to the inheritance of her tribe: she shrieked. The mountain shook from its base; her spirit retired to the ghosts of her fathers in their light airy halls."

This tale is repeated and sung in the original by many persons in this neighbourhood. They tell several other tales concerning the same Bera, but by no means in so elegant a manner. The preceding story was woven from the raw material in Ossian's loom of fancy; but the others are the rough manufacture of the peasantry. The residence of Bera was said to be in the highest mountains; that she could step with ease, and in a moment, from one district to another; and when offended, she caused a flood to come from the mountains, which destroyed the corn and laid the grounds under water. This may probably allude to water spouts, which in this country often burst suddenly on the hills, tearing down a great part of their sides, and sweeping, in a mingled torrent of gravel and stones and water, into the plain. These wonderful effects would readily in the dark ages be attributed to the agency of spirits and giants.

Glencroe. Glencroe, which forms one of the passes into the Highlands, and is on the road from Glasgow to Inverary, is a deep and wide glen. Tarbat and Arroquhar, as well as Rowardennan, are said to be in the Highlands, and the inhabitants speak Gaelic, which is called the Highland language; yet still the features of the Highland country, which are perfectly different from the southern parts of Scotland, do not begin till we enter Glencroe, or the Wester Killicranky, similar to that on the east side of the kingdom. These passes seem the natural boundaries of the bold and rugged hills which characterise the northern part of Scotland. The scenery of Glencroe is sublime in the highest degree.

On each side are mountains, the most steep and rugged imaginable, with rocks of every shape hanging on their sides. Many have fallen into the bottom of the glen, while others seem to threaten the traveller with instant destruction. In some parts the craggy tops of the mountains appear almost to meet over head; in others the valley opens; and here and there the sides of it exhibit patches of vegetation covered with sheep. Down the middle of the glen runs a considerable brook, near which the road is carried. This brook is formed by hundreds of little rills that tumble, in the form of cascades, from the mountains on both sides. The glen is almost constantly deluged with rain. The high mountains arrest the clouds brought from the Atlantic by the westerly winds, which almost constantly blow here from that quarter. Scenery.

Perhaps the most romantic and singularly picturesque piece of Highland scenery that is to be found in Scotland, is that exhibited by the valley of Glencoe, or the glen through which flows the stream called Coe, the Cona of Ossian. Here the rude rocks shoot up into a thousand fantastic forms of grandeur and beauty. Vast fragments are seen, which have been thrown down by the ravages of time; while deep furrows, worn by the wintry torrents, mark the sides of the heights. It would be impracticable by words to afford an adequate conception of the picturesque beauties of this rugged glen. We may remark, however, that there are circumstances attending its history, which must prevent a traveller of sensibility from passing through it without sentiments of the most impressive sort. It is represented as the birth-place of Ossian, and it is often mentioned in his poems; and whether the work published by M'Pherson be or be not completely genuine, it Glencoe, the birth-place of Ossian.

Scenery. is sufficiently so to render this scene abundantly interesting:

"Their sound was like a thousand streams that meet in Cona's vale, when after a stormy night they turn their dark eddies beneath the pale light of the morning."—FINGAL.

"The gloomy ranks of Lochlin fell, like the bank of the roaring Cona. If he overcomes, I will rush in my strength like the roaring stream of Cona."—CARTHON.

"Sleeps the sweet voice of Cona in the midst of his rustling hall? Sleeps Ossian in his hall, and his friends without their fame?"—CAILATH AND CUTHONA.

"The chiefs gathered from all their hills, and heard the lovely sound. They praised the voice of Cona, the first among a thousand bards; but age is now on my ongue, and my soul has failed."—THE SONGS OF SELMA.

"So shall they search in vain for the voice of Cona after it has failed in the field. The hunter shall come forth in the morning, and the voice of my harp shall not be heard. 'Where is the son of car-born Fingal?' The tear will be on his cheek. Then come thou, O Malvina! with all thy music come; lay Ossian in the plain of Lutha; let his tomb rise in the lovely field."—BERRATHON.

"Why bends the bard of Cona (said Fingal) over his his secret stream? Is this a time for sorrow, father of low-laid Oscar?"—TEMORA.

It were to be wished that the historian of this glen could record nothing worse of it than the martial deeds of Fingal and his heroes; but unfortunately it was the scene of one of the most barbarous and sanguinary acts that has happened in modern times, or was ever sanctioned by any regular government. We mean the massacre of Glencoe, of which the following is the most authentic account that

has been procured either from writers or persons on the spot. Scenery.

Though the act of settlement in favour of William had passed both in England and Scotland, yet a number of the Highland clans, attached to their late unfortunate monarch, and irritated by some of the proceedings of the new government, bowed with reluctance to the yoke. The Earl of Breadalbane, however, undertook to bring them over, by distributing sums of money among their chiefs; and L.15,000 was remitted from England for that purpose. The clans being informed of this remittance, suspected that the Earl's design was to appropriate to himself the best part of the money. Accordingly, when he began to sound them, they made such extravagant demands that he found his scheme impracticable; he therefore refunded the money, resolving to be revenged on those who frustrated his intention. Among these was M'Donald of Glencoe, against whom he is said to have entertained a private resentment, and to have watched with impatience an opportunity for his destruction. It seems that a party of the M'Donalds, on some expedition, common even in these days, had plundered the lands of the Earl of Breadalbane, who now insisted on being indemnified for his losses from the other's share of the money, which he was employed to distribute. The proud chief refused to comply with this, alleging that his plundering expedition had only been a retaliation for similar depredations committed on his property by the vassals of the Earl. In consequence of this, Breadalbane is said to have represented him at court as an incorrigible rebel, who would never be obedient to the laws of his country, nor live peaceably under any sovereign. He observed, that he had paid no regard to the late proclamation, and proposed that the government should sacrifice him, with his family and de- Massacre of Glencoe.

Massacre of Glencoe.

pendants, to the quiet of the kingdom. This proclamation had been issued some time before by the king, offering an indemnity to all who had been in arms against him, if they would submit and take the oaths of allegiance before the expiration of the year, but threatening with military execution all those who should hold out after the end of December. M'Donald for a while refused to submit, alleging that he kept his opinions quietly to himself, without injury to any one; but as the day of grace was near expiring, the tender ties of affection began to be drawn more closely, and his fears for his wife, his children, and his dependants, overcame his indignation. On the very last day of the month he repaired to Fort William, and requested that the oaths might be tendered to him by Colonel Hill, governor of that fortress. As this officer was not vested with the power of a civil magistrate, he refused to administer them, upon which M'Donald immediately set out for Inverary. Though the ground was covered with snow, and the weather intensely cold, he travelled with such diligence, that the term prescribed by the proclamation was but one day elapsed when he reached the place, and applied to Sir John Campbell, sheriff of the county, who, on consideration of his disappointment at Fort William, was prevailed on to administer the oaths to him and his adherents. They then returned quietly to Glencoe, confident of being protected by Government, to which they had so solemnly submitted. In consequence, however, of Breadalbane's representations, the king, whose chief virtue, Smollett observes, was not humanity, and who, indeed, might not perhaps have heard of M'Donald's submission, signed an order for putting near 200 people to death, with as little ceremony as if it had been an order to apprehend a smuggler. The warrant having been transmitted to the master of Stair, secretary of state

for Scotland, this minister sent directions to Livingstone, the commander in chief, to put the inhabitants of Glencoe to the sword. He had particular instructions to take no prisoners, that the scene might be rendered as terrible as possible, and serve as an example to the refractory clans. Massacre of Glencoe.

Early in the month of February 1691, Captain Campbell of Glenlyon, by virtue of an order from Major Duncanson, marched into the valley of Glencoe with a company of soldiers, on pretence of levying the arrears of the land-tax and hearth-money; and when M'Donald inquired into their intention, he answered it was friendly, and promised, *upon his honour*, that neither he nor his people should sustain the least injury. In consequence of this declaration, he and his men were received with most cordial hospitality, and were entertained in the most friendly manner for the space of fifteen days. At length the fatal period approached. M'Donald and Campbell had spent the day together; and the evening was spent by Campbell and some of his officers at cards with the laird of Glencoe and his wife, as well as M'Donald of Achtrichatain and some other neighbouring gentlemen. They parted early, with mutual promises of the warmest affection. Young M'Donald, however, perceiving the guards doubled, as well as something mysterious in the conduct of the troops, began to suspect some treachery, and communicated his suspicions to his father, who had so much confidence in the honour of Campbell that he treated these suspicions with jocularity. The youth, at the close of the day, drew his brother aside, and took him privately among the soldiers to make observations. Approaching a guard under cover of the night, they overheard a centinel tell his fellow his dislike to the business. He would have had no objection, he said, to have fought the M'Donalds of the Glen fairly in the field, but that he

Massacre of Glencoe.

detested murdering them in cold blood. "However," says he, "our officers are answerable for the treachery." Upon hearing this conversation the two young men hastened back to their father's house to warn him of the danger; but the bloody business was begun. As they approached they heard the report of fire-arms and the shrieks of despair, and being themselves destitute of arms, secured their own lives by flight. The savage ministers of vengeance entered the old man's chamber; he started up, and was instantly shot through the head. He fell down dead in the arms of his astonished wife, who died the next day, distracted by the horror of her husband's fate. The laird of Achtrichatain, who, as was before observed, was at that time the guest of Glencoe, shared the fate of his host, though he had submitted to government three months before, and had the king's protection in his pocket. His descendants relate, that a faithful follower, of the name of Kennedy, seeing the fatal musket levelled, and the deadly aim taken, threw himself between the assassin and his chief, in hopes of saving the life of his master at the expence of his own; but the ball killed both. The houses of the tenants and dependants were surrounded, and every man butchered who was found. Thirty-eight persons were thus surprised in their beds, and hurried into eternity, before they had time to implore the divine mercy. The design was to murder all the males under seventy that lived in the valley, the number of whom amounted to about 200; but some of the detachments fortunately did not arrive in time enough to secure the passes, so that about 160 made their escape. Campbell having perpetrated this brutal massacre, ordered all the houses to be burned, and made a prey of the cattle and effects that were found in the valley. Mr M'Donald's house is at present exactly in the situation of that

represented in the view of Glencoe. To the right of it is a barn, then a dwelling-house, in which several were shot, and which escaped the flames of the plunderers. The women and children were indeed spared the immediate stroke of death, as if to render their fate more cruel; for such of them as had neither died of the fright, nor been butchered by mistake, were turned out naked at the dead of night, a keen freezing night, into a waste covered with snow, at the distance of six long miles from any inhabited place. The morning dawned, and discovered the horrid deed in all its guilt. Thirty-eight slaughtered bodies were drawn out, and the women were in general found either starved to death, or expiring with their children under rocks and hedges. This horrid business was never sufficiently examined. The king endeavoured to throw the odium from himself, by saying that it was an oversight committed in the hurry of subscribing his royal mandate. But it may be asked, if a mandate from the throne was of so little consequence as to be signed without consideration? or whether ignorance or hurry, in such a case, can be admitted as an excuse? Various circumstances, however, and particularly the lenity shown to all concerned in this business, rendered this apology certainly defective. Whether his majesty's conscience ever admonished him relative to this business, or by what casuistry he might undertake to appease this monitor, does not appear; but the imputation of guilt stuck fast to his character: and his not punishing the perpetrators of the murder with due rigour, was, as his panegyrist Bishop Burnet himself allows, the greatest blot in his whole reign. With respect to the inferior agents, they pretended, as has been already observed, to be nothing but mere machines; since, when conversing deliberately on the nature of the business, they soothed their consciences with the idea that their officers were to be an-

Massacre of Glencoe.

Massacre of Glencoe.

swerable for the treachery. The officers, on their part, to make the most favourable supposition, perhaps considered themselves also as reduced to machines by the king's authority; but supposing that they did console themselves with this idea, why not fall on the M'Donalds at first? why feast upon their bounty, and pledge their honour that no harm should happen, while it was their intention to murder them?

Scenery on the lochs.

In all quarters of the county the boldest scenery of Nature, in her wildest aspects, is exhibited, as may be seen, not merely by traversing the country, but by sailing up the different lochs or arms of the sea by which it is intersected, and from which are advantageously seen the bold features of the country, and the sides of the mountains towering to the clouds. This, in particular, is the case with regard to the west side of Loch Long, and both sides of Loch Goil, of which the coast is bold and steep, and the hills high and craggy. The barrenness of the ground, however, along the coasts of Loch Goil and Loch Long, is partly concealed, and the tremendous wildness of the scene agreeably diversified, by extensive natural woods, which cover the lands near the coast, and rise to a considerable distance from the shore. To a person who is rowed up Loch Goil, in a calm summer day, and who is not accustomed to see the strong features of Nature which prevail in this country, the appearance of the objects around him must be uncommonly striking. The surface of the country in general is very unequal. Some of the mountains which form the western extremity of the Grampians are situated in this neighbourhood; particularly Bein-Una, so called from the richness of its grass; Bein-an-Locham, from the fresh-water lake which washes its base; Bein-huib-Haen, abounding in herbs; Bein-Thiolaire, remarkable for its springs and water cresses; and Bein-Donich,

called after a saint of that name. These, and some other neighbouring mountains, rise to a great height. Their altitude has never been exactly ascertained; but, if we may judge from their appearance, and from the experience of those who frequently ascend them, none of them are much lower, and some of them are rather higher, than Bein-Lommen or Ben-Lomond, the height of which is well known, and was formerly stated. Some of these mountains are interspersed with huge rocks, caverns, and frightful precipices; in others scarce a rock is to be seen. Till of late they were covered with black heath; but since they have been generally pastured with sheep, they begin to exhibit the pleasing appearance of verdure, and some of them are already green to the very summit. The low lands and valleys form a delightful variety in the surface. After surveying extensive wilds and barren rocks, which present nothing but desolation and solitude, the eye is greatly refreshed by the appearance of small cultivated spots of plain ground upon the coast, and in the valleys, which bring back the pleasing ideas of shelter, of industry, and of population. The coast of Loch Fyne, which is so much celebrated for its herring fishery, is in different places, to a great extent, of a low flat character; but at other places the shore is high and rocky, and the sea comes close to the foot of the hills. Indeed, in all the deep bays or lochs of the county, great variety prevails; under this general description, however, that the base of a lofty mountain is never far distant from the level surface of the water. Scenery.

Among the rocks in the parish of Loch Goil Head are a great number of natural caves, vaults, and grottos of different forms and dimensions. One of these caves is situated a little below a very high and tremendous rock, from which a great number of smaller rocks seem to have been torn, either by lightning or by some convulsion of the Caves.

Caves. earth; probably by the former, as lightning produced a similar effect, a few years ago, in another part of the country. Among these smaller rocks is the cave already mentioned. The entry of it is in the form of an arch, about four feet high and three broad. The cave itself is very spacious, of a circular form, but not perfectly regular. It is more than seventy feet in circumference, and about ten feet in height. All around the cave there are smaller vaults resembling cellars; and from one part of it a narrow passage leads to a small apartment not unlike a sleeping chamber. The cave is covered above by a great number of large rocks, which appear to have been thrown upon one another without any order or regularity. Within it is perfectly dry, but rather dark, having no light but what it receives through the passage already mentioned. This cave is remarkable for having been the sanctuary of one of the lairds of Ardkinglas, who, according to the tradition of the country, having been defeated and oppressed by some powerful neighbour, was obliged to conceal himself and a few followers in this cave for a whole year; during which time his vassals and tenants found means to supply him with provisions so secretly that his retreat was not discovered by the enemy. It is called from this incident *Hamh-mhei-sain-beorch*. But the most remarkable of all the numerous caves in this country is one which is is called *Hamh-na-plundarain*. In the face of a steep hill there is a small area between two rocks. At the bottom of this area is a small opening, the mouth of which is covered, and concealed from the eye by thick heath and ferns. This narrow and troublesome passage, through which a person of an ordinary size is with great difficulty able to creep, is about six feet long, and leads to a small subterraneous apartment, about ten feet long, six broad, and eight high. Four feet above the bottom of this cave is

a small opening between two rocks, which must be ascended by a ladder; and which leads to a second apartment, about fifteen feet long, twelve feet high, and of an irregular breadth. To this place it will be necessary to bring a candle or lantern, as it is perfectly dark. From this there is a narrow and rugged passage to a third apartment, which is also dark. This place is about twenty-four feet in length, fifteen in breadth, and as many in height. The rocks all around are covered with petrified water. The bottom, which is also rock, is perfectly dry. Two large rocks meeting cover it above exactly like the roof of a house. Beyond this there is another dark cave nearly of the same dimensions with the first. These, and a great many other subterraneous apartments in this parish, were in former times often the residence of a banditti who committed depredations on the neighbourhood. They were also of great service in preserving the persons and the property of the inhabitants during the deadly feuds and predatory wars which prevailed of old in this country. A few years before the revolution, the powerful families of Argyle and Athol were attached to opposite parties in the state. In consequence of this, and prompted to revenge by the memory of former injuries, the vassals of the latter made an irruption into Argyleshire. Upon that occasion the inhabitants of this parish retreated, with their wives, their children, and the most valuable part of their portable effects, to their caves, their strongholds, and hiding places, from whence they surprised the enemy in several successful sallies, but could not prevent them from burning many houses, nor from carrying away and destroying much cattle. Caves.

In the parish of Strachur is a cave in the side of a hill, called *Tur-na'n-calman*, "the Fort of Pigeons," in the farm of Invernaodin; it is frequently visited. It is re-

Caves. markable for the length of time a stone thrown into the mouth of it continues to tumble down with a remarkable noise, as if it were rolling over sheets of copper. There is another cave, in a hill called *Carnach-mbor*, so wide at the entrance as to admit four men abreast; it then expands, furnishing an apartment where fifty men in arms may stand without any inconveniency; then it becomes narrow; and in advancing there is an apartment equally large with the first; and so on alternately, as far as it has been explored. There are a number of other smaller caves in the side of the same hill. A cave in the farm of Ballemore, in the face of a steep rugged rock, deserves only to be mentioned, on account of a remarkable man who took up his residence in it, and whose name it bears. It is called *Uam-bachcrolaich*, "the Strong Fellow's Cave." It is said that a man, unknown to any person, carried his wife and family into this cave, which is almost inaccessible: that he supported them there by preying on the neighbourhood: that he avoided as much as possible being seen: but that, when his necessities obliged him to make his appearance, he struck the people with such awe and terror that they refused him nothing: that he never particularly oppressed any person: that he left the country after he had reared his family.

The north-eastern part of Argyleshire, where it comes into contact with Perthshire, forms the western termination of the Grampians; and there Alps, piled on Alps, hide their heads in the clouds, and the face of Nature every where wears an aspect of wild, or rather terrific magnificence. Even the most mountainous parts of the country, however, are interspersed with beautiful, sheltered, and fertile vales or glens; but, in general, the great proportion of what may be called arable territory is upon the sea-coasts, where the mountains retreat from the margin of the water, and leave an intervening plain,

or gradual declivity, in many places of large extent. The soil of the arable land is extremely various. The most common along the sea and rivers is a light loam, mixed with sand or gravel, on a clay or gravelly bottom. On the sides of the hills the most common is a light gravelly soil on a till bottom. Sometimes the soil of the lower grounds has a mixture of clay, and sometimes of moss; and not seldom it is a coat of black mossy earth lying on till. As the mountains consist chiefly of whinstone, the lower grounds must, of course, contain a considerable proportion of the particles of that stone, which, since the creation, have been continually washed down from the higher to the lower grounds. The greatest defect of the soil, in general, is the want of a due proportion of clay to give it the proper degree of tenacity for supporting corn crops. This is commonly the case in all hanging grounds and mountainous countries. The clay washes away while the gravel and sand remain behind. The soil of the pasture grounds is no less diversified. Some of it is dry and kindly, and produces a sweet and fine pile of grass; some of it wet and spongy, and covered with coarse grasses, rushes, and sprets. Some of the flat grounds are marshy, and some mossy; and a very great proportion both of what is flat and hilly is covered with heath. The tops of the highest hills are generally bare and barren rocks, the unenvied abode of the ptarmigan, scared only by the scream of the eagle. Soil.

The continent of Argyleshire is divided among 156 proprietors. Of the estates of these proprietors, Properties.

The valued rent of 1 is nearly	L. 1500		
1.....	700		
6 is from	300	to	200
17.....	200	to	100
20.....	100	to	50

Size of Estates.

The valued rent of 19 is from L.50 to 30
15..... 30 to 20
27..... 20 to 10
42 is under 10

The whole amount of the valued rent of these estates is L.9924 : 8 : 1. This valuation, according to which the land-tax, ministers stipends, schoolmasters salaries, &c. are imposed, was made up in the year 1651, and was at that time half of the real rent after deducting all public burdens. The number of proprietors at that time was 200. There were, besides, at that time a very considerable number who held small estates in *wadset* or mortgage; a species of tenure which is now gone out of use in this county. Such persons held a sort of middle rank between tenants and proprietors. Till within these fifty or sixty years past, estates were seldom sold in this county. Luxury had not reached it; proprietors lived at home, and subsisted chiefly on the gross produce of their own lands. But now the case is otherwise. An expensive mode of living is introduced. Gentlemen resort frequently to the metropolis; and no reproach is attached to the loss of an estate, as the case is become so common. At present a purchaser might find L.150,000 worth ready to meet him in the market. This, however, though a private loss, may be a public benefit. A spirit of industry and adventure is excited by the prospect of obtaining one day a spot of his native land, which a man may call his own. About a third of the property is held under strict entails, and is thereby prevented from becoming a subject of commerce. The larger estates are managed by factors (or stewards); the lesser by the proprietors themselves, when they reside, and by agents, who collect the rents, when they do not reside on their estates themselves.

The size of farms in this county is so different in differ-

ent parts of it, that no general description of their magnitude can be given. Where the grazing system has been completely introduced, as in the most inland and northern districts, the farms are of large extent. One is mentioned as being thirty miles in length and from three to four miles in breadth, being perhaps the largest farm in Britain. On the other hand, in many parts of the country, especially in the southern districts, the old Highland system of small farms remains; and these are necessarily occupied by a very poor tenantry. The great sheep farmers chiefly stock their lands with the black-faced or Tweeddale breed of sheep, which are greatly approved of by the English graziers, who purchase them for the purpose of being fattened on the southern pastures. The old small white-faced Highland breed of sheep prevails in Kintyre. On the coast the cattle are fond of the sea-ware cast out upon the shore, and are seen following the retiring tide to obtain it. Pasturage.

In Argyleshire modern farmers think that too much use is still made of the plough, or rather perhaps that too much grain is attempted to be reared. Such is the wetness of the climate, that it is much better adapted for green crops and pasture than for grain; that potatoes are almost the only article of human food which ought to be reared, and for them the light soil of the low ground is well adapted. It is also thought that, in addition to these, the plough ought to be chiefly employed in raising turnip and artificial grasses, to support in winter the sheep and cattle reared on the surrounding mountains and valleys. In the inland districts, at least, the proportion of low ground, though all kept for winter food, is rather too small for the summer pasture. Agriculture.

The houses of the little farmers are still here very miserable; a parcel of stones, huddled up to the height of Farm-houses.

Agriculture.

five or six feet, without mortar, or with only mud instead of it; and these walls, burdened with a heavy and clumsy roof, need to be renewed with almost every lease; and the roof generally so flat at top that one might securely sleep on it, is seldom water tight; a circumstance sufficient of itself to make the house uncomfortable, and to bring it soon to ruin. The roof, as it is generally put on, requires to be thatched every third or fourth, and sometimes every second year. Heather roofs are found most permanent; that is to say, the twigs of heath used for thatch. A heather roof well put on will last 100 years, if the timbers under it will endure for that period. The cottages here are for the most part mean and wretched hovels, except where a tradesman here and there may have found proper encouragement to build for himself a comfortable habitation.

Leases, &c.

Some proprietors in this county still adhere to the old practice of giving no leases to their tenants. As none but the poorest class of tenants will occupy lands on these terms they remain unimproved. Leases for six years are in some places very common; but here, as in the rest of Scotland, the most general endurance of leases is nineteen years, and few are granted for a longer period. Many proprietors have all the implements of husbandry in great perfection. Harrows with timber teeth are still used by a few of the poorer farmers in some parts of the county; nor is the barbarous custom of tying them to the tails of horses, instead of drawing them by hems, entirely laid aside. Break-harrows and rollers are almost as yet confined to a few proprietors. The use of carts, where the roads and the ground admit of them, is nearly general. Those used by the farmers are for the most part of a small size, proportioned to the horses, and not well mounted, owing to the scarcity and high price of timber.

Peats and dung used to be carried on sledges, or on creels on the backs of the horses; and the corn and hay was conveyed in small frames in the same manner. This is still the case in some parts where steep grounds and bad roads admit of no better conveyance. Fanners are pretty common; thrashing machines not known. A few kilns, with brick floors for drying corn, have been lately erected in Kintyre. Agriculture.

In this county inclosures as yet are chiefly confined to the possessions of proprietors; many of whom have sufficiently inclosed and subdivided the farms in their own hands. Many of the storemasters and graziers have also inclosed considerable portions of their lower grounds, which they save for winter and spring pasture. But the general appearance of the country is still naked and open; and must remain so, if landlords will not inclose them, or give their tenants longer leases. The inclosures are of various kinds: stone dikes, earthen dikes, ditches, hedges, and half-dikes or sunk-fences. In this county there are, properly speaking, no commons; but the open state of a great part of the country, and the mode of occupying farms by a number of small tenants conjunctly, may be considered as little better. The Duke of Argyle has been, for a considerable time back, changing this system on his estate, by dividing farms, and giving each tenant his own share separately. Others have begun to follow this system, by which the lands are better improved. Inclosures.

The kind of grain that is raised in greatest quantity in this county is oats, which grow on poor exhausted soil that would yield no other crop. The quantity raised, however, is not equal to the consumption of the county. About 25,000 bolls of oatmeal may be yearly imported to the continent of Argyle. Crops reared. Oats.

Agriculture.

Bear or big.

Bear or big is raised in considerable quantities, and with great avidity, on all lands supposed to be in condition to bear it. All farmers in the lower parts of the county are anxious to rear as much as possible of this grain, because it never fails to find a ready market for the use of the distillery. Potatoes have been long and much cultivated in this county, where they may be well said to be the staff of bread; for most of the inhabitants live chiefly upon them for more than three-fourths of the year. Of late they have learned to keep them fresh and good all the year round, by laying them up dry in winter, and by spreading them, in the end of spring, on a clean floor, and frequently turning them, to prevent their growing.

Beans.

Beans are not much cultivated in any part of this county, excepting in Kintyre. Peas are frequently sown, but in no great quantity. Rye is sown in some light sandy soils on the shores of Kintyre, but not elsewhere. Flax is raised in all parts of the county, but chiefly for the purpose of being manufactured into linen cloth by private families. Yarn, to the amount of about L.3000, however, is sold from the continental part of Argyleshire, chiefly from Kintyre. There is a mill for dressing lint in Kintyre, and another in Lorn. Turnip is a crop extremely well adapted to the light soil and the weeping climate of this county; yet it is rarely cultivated: and the consequence is, that the cattle are left to subsist in winter upon dry straw as they best can. Attempts have been made by the Highland Society to encourage the cultivation of madder in the Highlands: but so far as we have learned, that mode of employing land cannot be said to have taken root in Scotland; although it undoubtedly seems suitable to the light soil of this part of the country, formed, as it apparently has been, by the washing down of earthy and sandy particles from mountains in the immediate neigh-

bourhood. Madder, or rather a substitute of much greater value called by the same name, is a native plant of Britain, lately come into great estimation since the art of dyeing cotton a Turkey red has been discovered. The root gives a colour nearly as bright as cochineal; and the top answers all the purposes of weld in dyeing yellow. It delights in a deep dry soil well pulverised; of which an acre may produce from three to four tons; and one ounce of seed will produce plants enough for an acre. The seed is sown in beds in April, and in two months the plants are set out into drills eighteen or twenty inches asunder, and duly hoed. In about four years, with only the trouble of occasional hoeings, they will arrive at a proper maturity. They are taken up in such quantities at a time as can readily be cleaned of the earth and outer rhind, which is done by washing them in running water, and then wiping them dry: after this they are dried by the sun; or, when this is not powerful enough, in a stove, so far as to stop fermentation without injuring or scorching the remaining and finer bark. When thus cured, they are immediately (before they imbibe any moisture from the air) grinded in a mill or otherwise, and casked up for use. The longer they are in the cask before they are used the better. Madder sells at sixpence the pound, or L.56 *per* ton, and cochineal at thirty times as much; yet one pound of madder dyes two pounds of cloth, and a pound of cochineal but sixteen pounds of the same cloth, equally deep, but less fixed and lasting.—See Agricultural Report of Surrey. Agriculture. Madder.

Clover and rye grass are raised in all parts of the county, but in no great quantities, though this sort of improvement is extremely necessary in such a county. There is some difficulty, however, in making much hay, on account of the general wetness of the climate. Grasses.

Agriculture.

Drymg barns.

We ought not to pass unnoticed the drying barns belonging to the Duke of Argyle in Glenshira, as well as in other places. The building in Glenshira stands across the valley, and is of a circular form, and so contrived as to produce a draught of air even in calm weather, there being open arches opposite to each other through the whole building. It is divided into two stories, and the upper one is used for drying; the lower consisting of cow-houses and other conveniencies. The floor of the upper story is made of small boards or battens, about an inch distant from each other, to receive the benefit of the air below. There are likewise openings in the sides of the walls, at convenient heights, to receive the hay and corn from the carts. On the floor the grass is soon laid after it is cut. A few hands serve to turn it over for two or three days, when it is found perfectly dry, and of a much finer flavour than hay dried by the hot sun. In this story are jointed frames of wood suspended from the roof at convenient distances from each other. These frames have a number of sharp-pointed pegs on each side of them, inclining upwards; upon each side of which a sheaf of corn is hung to dry. The frames, by means of joints, are lowered down to receive the corn; and when the drying is finished they are moved up again, to be out of the way. The Duke's whole harvest, in wet seasons, and some of it in all seasons, is dried in this manner. A particular description, with a plan of these barns, is given by Dr Smith of Campbeltown in his valuable Agricultural Survey of Argyleshire. The late Duke was so fully satisfied of the utility of this mode of drying, that he fitted up several small barns for that purpose in the immediate vicinity of Inverary. The barns have several small beams running parallel to each other across the breadth of the room; from these are suspended a great number of long poles

filled with pegs, on which the sheaves are hung. We cannot help remarking, however, that costly buildings, or other implements of agriculture, which cannot be obtained without an expenditure of capital which never will be repaid by their ordinary use, can be of little benefit to the community. They resemble the gardens of the rich, which are formed as objects of taste, or to display their wealth, but produce no adequate profit. By far the greater part of the territory of a state must always be cultivated by farmers labouring from a view to subsistence or private emolument; and those agricultural instruments and practices can only be of value to society which are attended with profit to the individuals by whom they are employed, and are adapted to the train of ordinary husbandry. Grapes, melons, and even pine-apples, can be reared in hot-houses in Argyleshire; and, by means of costly drying barns, the climate may, in like manner, be set at defiance, so far as regards the in-gathering of corn crops: but this sort of ducal or princely cultivation cannot fail to cost more than it yields in point of profit, and is therefore, at the long run, a loss to the community; which can only derive benefit from an example being afforded of these agricultural practices, such as the rearing of turnip, grasses, carrots, parsnips, cabbage, &c. which are at once cheap in their nature, and suitable to the soil and climate. Agriculture.

Sea-ware along the coast is much used as manure. Paring and burning has been employed; but the extreme fertility which it instantly produced was abused, the land was scourged by repeated crops, and the practice brought into discredit. Lime is used, to a considerable extent, for agriculture, as well as marl, of which there are considerable quantities in different districts. Shell-sand is found in many of the bays, and has been long used both for corn Manure.

Agriculture. and meadow lands. By being spread upon the surface, it greatly improves all sorts of pasture.

Live stock. Black cattle were, till sheep have been lately introduced, the principal export of this county; and the chief care of the farmer was to rear them. They still make the greatest part of the live stock of the lower part of the county, where a great part of the land is in tillage, and where the hills connected with it are not extensive enough for sheep-walks.

Cattle. The cattle are a small hardy breed, generally weighing, when fat, from five to six stone the quarter. Few of them are polled, but the horn is generally small. Gentlemen, who have paid attention to breed and rearing, have of late greatly improved both the shape and size of their cattle. Among the ordinary tenants, however, this improvement goes on but slowly. Their farms, too, are generally overstocked; so that cattle are, at all ages, ill fed, and prevented from attaining their proper size. No breed, however, seems more hardy, nor fattens easier. Some Galloway cattle have been introduced, and found to answer pretty well; but they are not equal to the native breed. Crossing the native with the Galloway breed has also been practised; but the true native breed was found to be superior to this cross breed, and always preferred to any other by the English buyers, as they fatten quicker and truer. The form most wished for is to get them short in the legs, round in the body, straight in the back, and long in the snout. They are of various colours; black, dun, branded, and brown; but the black is the most common. When in good condition, and from three to four years old, when they are commonly sold off, the carcase may weigh from 360 to 400 pounds avoirdupois; but such as are brought to better pasture, as in England, may be brought to weigh 560 pounds or more. The price is generally according to the size and shape, but occasionally varies according to the demand. They

are not wrought, nor supposed to be well calculated for working, as they are too light for that purpose. Agriculture.

It has been already mentioned, that upon the mountain pastures sheep are rapidly supplanting the black cattle, and have completely done so in all the extensive mountainous districts. It is understood that 600 sheep are a sufficient number to be left to the care of one shepherd.

Goats abounded in this county some time ago; but the attention paid, first to woods and then to sheep, has now almost banished them. On the continental part of the county it is supposed that there may be at present about 4600; and nearly one third of these are in the parish of Kilmalie. The goat is an useful though neglected animal, and so well adapted to the soil and climate, that it may yet be considered as a loss if the species be allowed to perish. It is liable to no diseases. It finds its food where no other animal is able to travel. Its milk, of which it gives a large quantity, is medicinal, and makes excellent cheese by itself, or mixed with the milk of cows. Its flesh, too, particularly the juice of it, is nourishing, and much recommended for many ailments. The tallow is considerable; and from twelve to sixteen pounds of it have sometimes been got from one goat. The skin of it, too, is valuable, and has lately sold in some places from five shillings to seven shillings and sixpence, and in this county at four shillings. The goat, in some situations, and with proper attention, might perhaps prove a more profitable animal than the sheep. In good keeping they have often two kids at a time; and may be brought to weigh, when fat, six stones of iron weight. In this county some weigh from sixteen to eighteen pounds the quarter. If one should be disposed to make the experiment of stocking a farm with goats, they might at least allow a few of them to pasture with their sheep, as they would find their food in precipices to which sheep could have no Goats.

Agriculture.

access. A few in the upper parts of this county do so, and find it an advantage. In Northumberland they have generally a few of them mixed with their sheep, for the health of the flock; as it is known they eat with safety plants which to other animals would be poison. If it ever shall be the good fortune of this animal to come into favour with us again, there is no doubt but other species of it might be introduced and thrive; such as the Chamois goat, so valuable for its skin; and the Natolian goat, which has hair as fine as silk.

Horses.

The horses of this county are of different shapes and sizes according to the degree of care bestowed on the breed and rearing of them. The best of them are of as large a size as the soil will admit, and of a tolerably good shape. They are short, thick, and compact in the body; strong, hardy, sure-footed, easily fed, and patient of fatigue and labour. No breed can be better adapted to the country than the best of the native kind. Since the introduction of sheep, the rearing of horses has been much neglected in the higher parts of the county; and in the lower parts, where the land is mostly occupied by small tenants, they can seldom be commended either for their size or their shape. In the district of Kintyre they are not, indeed, in general wanting in size, but very much so in shape. They are long-bodied, long-legged, hard, and high in the bone, and ill to support. It is generally thought that the best of the native breed of this county are to be found in the island of Mull, probably owing to their being less contaminated with any other breed than those on the continent; though the tradition of the country ascribes the superiority to some horses having got ashore from a ship of the Spanish armada that was wrecked or sunk on the coast of that island. It is remarkable that a like tradition prevails in Galloway, and is assigned as a reason for the excellence of the Galloway

ponies. Could these traditions be depended on, they would promise great benefit from crossing the Highland with the Spanish race of horses. As horses are allowed to provide for themselves during all seasons, by roaming upon the mountains, they are a profitable stock, and in truth take little from the sheep. Agriculture.

The Highlanders in this quarter are gradually laying aside their prejudice against swine, and they begin to be reared in many parts of the county. They abound mostly in the district of Kintyre, but even there not above 400 of them are reared annually. They are of different kinds, but mostly of the small dunnish white breed with erect ears. In other parts of the county some gentlemen have got a few of the small black Chinese breed, which are easier fattened and less mischievous. The only rabbits on the continent of Argyleshire are those contained in a small island in the fresh water lake called Loch Awe, used as a warren by the Duke of Argyle. The county does not abound in poultry, but every body has some of them. Many of the gentlemen and a few of the farmers rear some geese and turkeys. There are some instances of domesticated geese near the sea associating with wild ones in summer and harvest, and bringing some of these strangers home along with the flock at the approach of winter. The whole county does not contain a dozen pigeon-houses. Swine.

In the royal boroughs of Campbeltown and Inverary, both of which possess the advantage of a maritime situation, the fuel mostly used is coals. Coals are also used by many gentlemen along the sea-coast, but the general fuel of the county is peat. In many parts of the county this fuel is nearly run out by bad management; and the want of it must soon be severely felt, if measures are not taken to supply it with wood, which must probably be Fuel.

Agriculture.

the ultimate resource. The injudicious and irregular mode of cutting peats, which almost universally prevails, is in many respects a very serious evil. The moss, by cutting it into pits and holes, is soon rendered a perfect bog or quagmire, unfit for giving any supply of fuel. It is made dangerous and even fatal to cattle, and almost incapable of being brought, if wished for, into a state of cultivation. It ought to be cut regularly along; and if fuel is much wanted, the water being allowed to stagnate around it, a new growth of moss will speedily commence.

Roads.

The most public roads in this county are well formed, but the bye-roads are extremely defective. The military roads, which were made through the upper parts of this county between forty or fifty years ago, soon made every person sensible of the advantage of having good roads and bridges. The proprietors, with much public spirit, obtained an act of parliament assessing the lands with one shilling in the pound of valued rent, borrowed or advanced money upon this fund, commuted the statute labour, and often contributed by voluntary subscriptions, till by every exertion the most public and necessary roads were executed. From their spirited exertions in this business, much praise is due to them. Some of their undertakings were truly arduous. A mountain which separated Kintyre from the rest of the county, and which used to be climbed over to the height of about 1500 feet, was long considered as an unsurmountable obstacle. Of several estimates got of the expence of cutting a road for four or five miles along the base of the mountain, which is remarkably steep and rocky, the lowest was L.3000. The late Archibald Campbell of Glenlyon was the first who, after minutely examining it, affirmed it could be done for L.1500. This sum was immediately subscribed, and the road actually executed for L.1440; though in some

places it passes through large rocks, which could be broke only by the force of powder. Mineralogy

The mineralogy of the continental part of this county has not been sufficiently explored, but deserves considerable attention. The peninsula of Kintyre, extending far to the south, reaches the latitude of the great coal-field of Scotland, which we formerly described: and accordingly coal is found in the neighbourhood of Campbeltown; but it has not hitherto been wrought to any greater extent than is necessary to supply the consumption of the neighbourhood, amounting to about 4500 tons annually. The coal is rather of an inferior quality; but there is reason to believe that better coal might be obtained by sinking the mine to a greater depth. Minerals. Coal.

Freestone of various colours and qualities is found in Kintyre. There are many other kinds of stone in the county, which admit of being dressed and hewn. The most beautiful of them is that of which the Duke of Argyle's castle at Inverary is built; the *lapis ollaris*, said to be the same with that of the king of Denmark's palace at Copenhagen. A stone somewhat similar in colour, but harder and coarser in grain, is found in Glenurchay, and seems to be the same with that of which the old crosses and monuments in Icolmkill were formed. On this kind of stone time or weather seems to make little or no impression; so that it is the fittest of any for monuments; but it is somewhat too soft under friction. Freestone, lapis ollaris, &c.

A kind of granite, which takes such a polish as to resemble spotted marble, is found near Inverary. A marble quarry has been wrought at Armady in Lorn; but the colour being a dull red streaked with white, rendered it less marketable than it might otherwise have been, and occasioned its being given up with some loss. A kind of grey marble is also found on Lochiel's estate in Kilmalie.

Limestone, which is of more value than marble, be-

Mineralogy

cause easier wrought, abounds in most parts of the county, insomuch that it may be said to have not quarries, but almost mountains of it.

Strontian mines.

Strontian, in the parish of Ardnamurchan, is noted for its lead mines. There is a small village erected for the accommodation of the miners. The mines of this place are famous for having given to the world a new species

Strontites.

of earth, which is distinguished by the name of *strontites*. This earth was not discovered till about the year 1791 or 1792. Dr Crawford, indeed, previous to this period, in making some experiments on what he supposed was a carbonate of barytes, and observing a striking difference between this mineral and the carbonate of barytes, which he had been accustomed to employ, conjectured that it might contain a new earth; and he sent a specimen to Mr Kirwan, for the purpose of analysing it. This conjecture was fully verified by the experiments of Dr Hope, Mr Kirwan, and Mr Klaproth, who were all engaged in the same analysis nearly about the same time. Strontites is found native, in combination with carbonic and sulphuric acids. The nature and properties of this earth have been still farther investigated by Pelletier, Fourcroy, and Vauquelin. This earth may be obtained in a state of purity either by exposing the carbonate of strontites mixed with charcoal powder to a strong heat, by which the carbonic acid is driven off, or by dissolving the native salt in nitric acid, and decomposing by heat the nitrate of strontites thus formed. Strontites obtained by either of these processes is in small porous fragments of a greenish white colour. It has an acrid, hot, alkaline taste, and converts vegetable blues to green. The specific gravity is 1.647. Light has no perceptible action upon this earth. When it is exposed to heat, it may be kept a long time, even in a red heat, without undergoing any change, or even the ap-

pearance of fusion. By the action of the blowpipe it is not melted, but is surrounded with a very brilliant white flame. When a little water is thrown on strontites, it exhibits the same appearance as barytes. It is slaked, gives out heat, and then falls to powder. If a greater quantity of water be added, it is dissolved. According to Klaproth, it requires 200 parts of water at the ordinary temperature of the atmosphere for its solution. Boiling water dissolves it in greater quantity; and when the solution cools it affords transparent crystals. These crystals are in the form of rhomboidal plates, or in that of flattened silky needles or compressed prisms. The specific gravity is 1.46. These crystals effloresce in the air, and have an acrid hot taste. The solution of this earth in water is acrid and alkaline, and converts vegetable blues to green. It is soon covered with a pellicle, by absorbing carbonic acid from the atmosphere. Strontites has the property of communicating a purple colour to flame. Mineralogy

The sulphuret of strontites is formed by exposing sulphur and the earth in a crucible to heat. This sulphuret is soluble in water by means of sulphureted hydrogen, which is disengaged by the decomposition of the water. The strontites, thus combined with sulphureted hydrogen, forms a hydrosulphuret of strontites; and if this solution be evaporated, the hydrosulphuret of strontites may be obtained in crystals, and the hydrogenated sulphuret remains, as in similar compounds, in solution. When the hydrogenated sulphuret is decomposed by means of the acid, the sulphureted hydrogen gas which is disengaged burns with a beautiful purple flame, on account of holding in solution a small quantity of the earth, which communicates this property.

Some appearances of lead ore have been also discovered

Mineralogy in Glenurchay, in Appin, and in the parish of Kilmalie. A copper mine has been found in the parish of Kilmartin, but not so far wrought as to ascertain its value.

Iron works. An iron foundery is established on Loch Etive, into the side of which the river Awe pours the water of the lake of the same name. The place is called Bunaw. About 1753 a company from Lancashire erected a furnace for casting pig-iron here, and obtained a long lease of several farms for rearing wood and grazing their work-horses. A part of the wood is cut down every year, and converted into charcoal, with which they are enabled to make extremely pure iron; the charcoal deoxidating the metal, and freeing it from its impurities, much better than fossil coal. The iron ore is imported from the western coast of England and other places. It is said that the natives of this county were in use, some ages ago, to make their own iron; and heaps of iron dross or slag are found in many places among the mountains (then covered with woods), said to be the remains of their founderies. But no iron ore is now to be observed of so good quality as to merit any attention; a circumstance rather unfavourable to the tradition.

Slate. A slate quarry is wrought in Ballechelish in Appin, and about ninety men are employed in it. Every four men, which is called a crew, are said to quarry one hundred and four thousand slates in a year, for which they receive fifteen shillings *per* thousand. There are slate rocks on the estate of Mr Campbell of Ross, in North Knapdale, but not yet wrought.

Breccia, &c. In the immediate vicinity of the village of Oban are immense rocks of pudding-stone. There is a large mass of it near the Inn; and it may be traced along the coast towards Dunstaffnage for some miles. These rocks, which are extremely curious, are composed of different kinds of

rounded pebbles, similar to those that generally form the beds of rivers, from the size of a hen's egg to that of a man's head. Some of these pebbles are quartzose, others porphyric, granitic, schistous, and calcareous; and are cemented together very firmly by a black lava. It may be added, that, in the vicinity of the house of Appin, some enormous blocks of quartz are to be seen lying close to the shore. In the parish of Southend, in the sea, is a bank of fine coral about 100 yards from the shore. The fragments of it form shelly sand, which is cast ashore after storms. Similar sand is found in different parts of the coast. In some of the valleys, also, fuller's earth is found. Inverary.

Inverary, the capital of the county, is situated in a small bay at the head of Loch Fyne, where the river Aray or Aoridh falls into that arm of the sea. It is a small town, consisting chiefly of one row of houses facing the lake, built with great uniformity; and the houses are commodious, well built, and covered with slate. The old town, which was a dirty ill-built village, situated on the north side of the bay, on the lawn before the Castle of Inverary, was removed to its present situation, and the greater part rebuilt, by the Duke of Argyle, who is proprietor of the whole town. It seems probable, that prior to the beginning of the fourteenth century, Inverary was little more than a place for fishermen, who lived by their occupation and erected their huts there. About that period the family of Argyle fixed upon it as their place of residence; and as the hereditary jurisdictions of justiciary and sheriffship were vested in that family, of consequence it became the seat of the courts and the county town. It was erected into a royal borough by a charter from Charles the First, dated at Carisbroock Castle, in the Isle of Wight, 28th January 1648. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, and a council nominated by the Duke. Its only Inverary.

Inverary. only revenue arises from the petty customs and the rent of a common, which, upon the first erection of the borough, was bestowed on it by the family of Argyle. Both these produce about L.30 Sterling annually. About fifty or sixty years ago, Archibald Duke of Argyle, seeing how inadequate this revenue was for the occasions of the borough, added to it a perpetual annuity of L.20, secured on his estate.

Inverary is so situated in the Highlands, that as many of the inhabitants speak English as Gaelic. There are, therefore, two ministers; one who officiates in English, and the other in Gaelic. Two new churches, under one roof, are building, from a very handsome design by Mr Milne, which when finished will have a good effect. They are built of a kind of porphyry with a reddish ground, containing a number of crystals of feldt-spar of a lighter colour, some crystals of black shorl, and a few of quartz. It is a very hard stone, found in great plenty in a quarry on the road to Dalmally, where it lies over a bed of schistus, under which is a bed of fine marble, which is burned to lime. Though Inverary is tolerably well situated for manufactures, none are carried on to very great extent. Archibald Duke of Argyle, about the year 1748, introduced the linen manufacture into the neighbourhood, and it has been attended with very beneficial consequences. About the year 1766, the late Duke established a woollen manufacture; and, at a considerable expence, erected proper buildings and machinery, and provided every material for carrying it on successfully. At the same time, as an additional encouragement, he gave the farm on which the factory is built at a very low rent, and even took some shares in the concern; contributing every thing in his power to insure the success of so patriotic an undertaking. This plan, so nobly set on foot by the Duke, was

seconded by many gentlemen of the county, who advanced money to the manufacturers at two and a half *per cent*. Notwithstanding which, and that his Grace gave the use of the whole building and machinery *gratis*, the business has not by any means been conducted with advantage; a circumstance much to be lamented. For, since the introduction of sheep into Argyleshire, the county has in some degree been depopulated; and the manufacture, had it succeeded, would not only have given employment to the hands turned from the farms, but would have added considerably to the wealth of the country, by exporting its wool in a manufactured instead of a raw state. Inverary.

Inverary, however, possesses one source of riches, of which the people do not fail to avail themselves; we mean the herring fishery in Loch Fyne. This lake, extending more than thirty miles from the Western Ocean into the country, has been from time immemorial noted for its herrings, which are superior in quality to any found in the western seas. The harbour of Inverary was anciently called *Sloch-Ichopper*, signifying the bay where vessels bought or bartered fish. And there is still represented in the shield of the arms of the borough a net with a herring, with this motto, "Semper tibi pendeat halec." The herring fishery commonly begins in July, and sometimes continues till the first of January. The lake, at this time, is generally frequented by innumerable shoals. The country people express the quantities of herring abounding here in very strong language. "At these seasons," say they, "the lake contains one part of water and two parts of fish." In this single bay of the lake 500 or 600 boats are sometimes employed in taking them; and the groups of these little fishing vessels, with their circling nets, make a beautiful moving picture. From the best information, it is believed that there have been caught and cured, in some Loch Fyne fishery.

Inverary. seasons, upwards of 20,000. Part of each boat is covered with a kind of sail-cloth, to form a covering for the four men who compose the crew. These men may be said to live in their boat the whole of the fishing season, for they seldom quit it during that time. The inhabitants of Inverary and of the banks of the loch do indeed spend Sunday at home; but as the greatest number of boats come from other parts of Scotland into the loch for the sake of fishing, the crews seldom quit them, and they live chiefly upon herring during their abode in the boat. The night is the time of fishing; the day is employed in gutting the fish they have taken, in sleep, or in singing Celtic tales to the sound of the bagpipe. Each boat clears, upon an average, between L.40 and L.50, and in some very good seasons L.100; besides a quantity of fish which they reserve for their own families. In the evening a number of boats form a line almost across the loch, and uniting their nets, produce a chain often more than 100 fathoms long. The herrings swim at very uncertain depths, so that it is necessary to sink the nets to the depth the shoal is known to take. Hence it is evident that the success of the fishers must in a great measure depend on their judgment or good fortune in taking the proper depths; for it will frequently happen that the nets of one boat will be full of herrings, whilst those of others scarcely take a single fish. Sometimes the fish swim in twenty fathoms water, sometimes fifty, and even at the bottom of the loch. The nets are kept up by buoys, consisting of blown bladders, or leather bags filled with air. The ropes that run through them are fastened with pegs, by means of which they can easily adjust them. They often boil or soak their nets in a strong decoction of oak bark, which prevents their putrefaction in

the water. When they have caught as many as they can during the night, they gut them, and throw them into a tub with a sprinkling of salt; they are then closely packed in barrels with alternate layers of salt; and after standing in this manner for a few weeks, they are repacked into other barrels, and sent to different parts of the world. This is the case with by much the greater part that are taken; but many are sent fresh to Glasgow, Stirling, and indeed to almost all parts of the country. In the middle of the season 200 or 300 horses, and a great many carts, are brought every day to the banks of Loch Fyne for fresh herrings. A barrel holds about 500 of the best kind of herrings, but 700 at a medium. If the number be greater they are reckoned poor. The guts afford a considerable quantity of oil. Inverary.

In the centre of the town of Inverary is a monument, not long since erected, to the memory of several gentlemen of the name of Campbell, who were massacred at one time near the spot. The circumstance is as follows: It is a well known part of Scottish history, that the amiable and patriotic Earl of Argyle, in the year 1685, joined the Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. After that unfortunate expedition, a neighbouring clan was deputed by government to carry destruction through the whole Clan of Campbell; and, as Mr Pennant says, was let slip, armed with the dreadful writ of fire and sword, to act at discretion among the unhappy people. Seventeen gentlemen of respectability, of the name of Campbell, were taken at Inverary, and instantly executed, without even the formality of a trial. The monument contains an inscription, commemorating, with a moderation that does honour to the writer, the justice of the cause in which his relatives fell.

The royal borough of Campbeltown is situated upon the eastern side of the peninsula of Kintyre, on a bay of Campbeltown.

Campbel-town.

the same name near the southern part of the peninsula. It was originally a small fishing village, and was created a royal borough in 1701, and called Campbeltown, from the family name of the Duke of Argyle, the principal proprietor of the town and neighbourhood. For some time before that period it went by the name of *Ceann-loch*, "Loch-head," which it still retains in the language of the country; and sometimes by the name of *Kilkerran*, one of the four ancient parishes united in the last century into one. But the oldest name of Campbeltown, by which a part of it is still known, is *Dalruadhaen*. It is now a large and flourishing town, and is daily increasing. The harbour is about two miles long and one broad, and in the form of a crescent; from six to ten fathom water, excellent anchorage; surrounded by high hills on each side, with an island, to shelter the entrance. It is appointed the rendezvous of the busses employed in the herring fishery. This fishery is the principal trade of the place, for the carrying on of which it is admirably situated. Its fine harbour, and its vicinity to the markets of Ireland and the Clyde, are advantages which very few sea-ports enjoy. Besides the fishery, there is carried on a considerable trade in the distillation of whisky. It is governed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, counsellors, and a treasurer. This last employment is not very burdensome, as the town has no landed property, and but a small revenue. They have therefore no great complaint of abuse, nor any loud cry for reform. Where the magistrates of boroughs, like the elders of churches, hold offices which occasion trouble and produce little emolument, perhaps they rather deserve the thanks of the public for what they do, than their censure for what they leave undone. Pennant remarks, "That two ministers officiate, besides another for the church of the seceders, called the *Relief House*. This

is a remarkably neat building, and quite shames that of the established church; was raised by a voluntary subscription of L. 2300, collected chiefly among the posterity of oppressed natives of the lowlands, encouraged to settle here (in times of persecution) by the Argyle family. These still keep themselves distinct from the old inhabitants, retain the zeal of their ancestors, are obstinately averse to patronage, but are esteemed the most industrious people in the country." Oban.

The village of Oban, in the parish of Kilmore, is situated on a fine bay in the Sound of Mull, hid from the Western Ocean by the Island of Kerrera. This bay is of a semicircular form, from twelve to twenty-four fathoms deep, and large enough to contain upwards of 500 sail of merchantmen. It has two openings, one from the north and another from the south; and is defended from the fury of the western winds by the islands of Kerrera and Mull. The village has risen rapidly from a small beginning. The first house of any consequence was built by a trading company of Renfrew, who used it as a store-room; Oban, even at that time, being considered as one of the most convenient stations for trade on the west coast of Argyleshire. About thirty-five years ago it was constituted one of the ports of the customhouse; and when a little trade began to be carried on, from the convenient bay and the vicinity of a populous country, the attention of the Duke of Argyle, Mr Campbell of Dunstaffnage, and other persons who possessed property around the village, was roused, and they granted building leases to a considerable extent, since which time the buildings have annually increased. It was particularly indebted to two brothers, of the name of Stevenson, who settled in it in 1778; and by different branches of traffic, not only acquired handsome fortunes for themselves, but highly promoted the good of Oban.

Crinan Canal.

the neighbouring country. Oban is admirably situated for trade, and is in a particular manner adapted for a fishing station. It lies on the tract of coasting vessels passing from north to south through the Sound of Mull. It is also near the entrance of the great Loch Linnhe, which runs up to Fort William, and forms the western part of the great inland navigation, or Caledonian Canal, already mentioned, which is forming along the Glenmore-na-h'Alabin from Inverness to the Atlantic.

Crinan canal.

We may with propriety mention here the canal which has been completed between Loch Gilp and Loch Crinan. It is believed to have been first projected by Mr Knox. To understand the value of this canal, it is necessary to recollect that this county, as formerly described, is deeply intersected by arms of the sea, or rather consists, in a great measure, of a succession of peninsulated tracts. It is also necessary to recollect, that the Mull of Kintyre, or most southern peninsula of Argyleshire, stretches southward to a great distance from the rest of the county, and almost into the latitude of the north of Ireland. A vessel, coming from any of the Highland ports, for instance Oban, into the Clyde, which is the great mart for the disposal of the produce of the Highlands, must go entirely round by the Mull of Kintyre, a narrow peninsula, that stretches forty miles from the mainland of Scotland, in a southern direction, till it approaches within twenty miles of the county of Antrim in Ireland. The distance from Greenock to the promontory of Mull, as it is called, is above sixty miles, in a south-west direction; but if we include the course of the shipping thither, the islands to be avoided, the tacks and evolutions occasioned by contrary winds and lee shores, the voyages from Greenock to the Mull of Kintyre may, on an average, be estimated at eighty miles each; which being all in a direction

DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE

contrary to the intended port, requires an equal, or nearly equal navigation, on the opposite side of the cape, till the vessels get into the same latitude with Greenock. This occasions an extra-navigation of 120 miles, or 240 miles northward and homeward, to every vessel or boat going to the West Highlands from the Clyde. Now, it is evident that the wind which favoured their voyage to the Mull of Kintyre becomes adverse after having doubled the cape; they must therefore either lie to, or, if a boat, work at their oars, through a heavy sea, up the Frith of Clyde, probably for many days, before they reach the intended port. Having disposed of their small cargo of skins, bark, or fish, in their return they have to combat the same difficulties and dangers: and when we consider the almost incessant gales, the lee shores, rocks, numerous islands, sands, and currents, attending this navigation, we can easily see, that besides the loss of time and money which it occasions, it is extremely hazardous to the poor natives, many of whom perish every year. Now, if the reader will cast his eye upon Loch Fyne in the map, he will perceive, at the part where it turns eastward, a small projecting arm, called Loch Gilp, and opposite to it, in the Sound of Jura, another arm called Loch Crinan: the distance between these two arms is only five miles, and it is through this isthmus that the canal is cut. This work, it is evident, will save a great deal of time to vessels coming from the West Highlands into the Clyde, and will likewise avoid the dangers and other inconveniencies attending a passage by the Mull of Kintyre.

Antiquities.

Among the antiquities of this county, the Castle of Dunstaffnage ought undoubtedly to take the lead. It stands on Loch Etive, on a promontory jutting into the lake. The castle is said to have been founded by Ewin, a Pictish monarch cotemporary with Julius Cæsar, who

Antiquities. Dunstaffnage castle.

Antiquities. called it after himself *Evenium*. Whether this account be true or not, it is certainly a place of great antiquity, and one of the first seats of the Pictish and Scottish princes. In this castle was long preserved the famous stone chair or seat, the palladium of North Britain, said to have been brought out of Spain, where it was first used as a seat of justice by Gatholus, who was coeval with Moses. It continued here, and was used as the coronation chair of Kenneth the Second, who removed it to Scone; from whence it was taken to Westminster abbey, where it now, we believe, remains. Some of the ancient regalia were preserved till the last century, when the keeper's servants, during his infirm years, embezzled them for the sake of the silver ornaments. There remains, however, a battle axe of beautiful workmanship, ornamented with silver. The castle is a square building in a very ruinous state: at three of the corners are round towers: the entrance is at present towards the sea by a ruinous staircase: and the whole has a most dreary and desolate appearance. Of this building nothing remains but the outer walls, within which a house has been erected for the residence of the proprietor. The Duke of Argyle is hereditary keeper of the castle; but it is the property of a private gentleman. It is situated on a rock, as was before observed, at the mouth of Loch Etive, whose waters expand within to a beautiful bay, where ships may safely ride at anchor in all weathers. In 1307, Dunstaffnage castle was possessed by Alexander M'Dougal, Lord of Argyle, but was reduced that year by Robert Bruce. About the year 1455, it seems to have been the residence of the Lords of the Isles; for hither it was, that James, the last Earl of Douglas, after his defeat in Annandale, fled to Donald, the Regulus of the time, and prevailed on him to take

arms and carry on a plundering war against his monarch James the Second. At a little distance from the castle, is a small roofless chapel of elegant workmanship, struggling hard against all-powerful time to accompany this venerable seat of kings in ages yet to come. In this chapel some of the kings of Scotland are said to have been buried. On the south side of it is a rock, one point of which stretches towards the chapel. If a person be placed on one side of the point, and speak aloud, the sound of his voice is heard on the other side so distinctly reverberated from the chapel as to make him imagine it comes from a person within the ruin. It is reported, that a few years since a man contracted an illness, which terminated in death, on hearing a sermon on mortality read to him by an alarming voice, in the dusk of the evening, by a person who had concealed himself on the opposite side of the point. He believed that the address came from one of the dead in the chapel, warning him to prepare for death. Antiquities.

In the parish of Ardchattan stood the city of Beregonium, well known to antiquarians. The original construction of this city, which was for several ages the capital of Scotland, is attributed to Fergus the Second. It was situated between two hills; one called *Dun Macnichan*, "the Hill of Snichan's Son," and the other, much superior in height, is named *Dunbhail-an-Righ*, "the Hill of the King's Town." A street paved with common stones, running from the foot of the one hill to the other, is still called *Stroud-mburagaid*, "the Market Street;" and another place, at a little distance, goes by the name of *Straid-Nanun* "the Meal Street." About ten or eleven years ago, a man cutting peats in a moss between two hills, found one of the wooden pipes that conveyed the water from the one hill to the other, at the depth of five feet below the surface. On Dun-Mac- Beregonium.

Antiquities. anichan is a large heap of rubbish and pumice stones, but no distinct traces of any buildings or fortification can now be seen on either of the hills; the foundations having been dug up for the purpose of erecting houses in the neighbourhood. There is a tradition among the lower class of people, that Beregonium was destroyed by fire from heaven. In confirmation of this tradition, it may be mentioned that a high rock near the summit of Dunbhail-an-Righ, projecting and overhanging the road, has a volcanic appearance and a most hideous aspect. Huge fragments have tumbled down from it. Adjoining to this place is a fine open spacious bay with a sandy bottom, capable of containing the whole navy of Great Britain.

Ardchattan priory. A part of the walls of the old priory of Ardchattan, founded in the thirteenth century by John M'Dougal of that ilk, is still standing. The present proprietor's dwelling-house was formerly a part of the monastery, and his offices occupy a great part of the ground upon which it stood. What now remains of the priory is converted into burying ground, in which are two monuments in niches in the walls: each has a stone coffin, and one of them is ornamented with a font and inscription in the Runic character. On two grave-stones are effigies of priests in their pontifical robes, with inscriptions in the same character.

In the parish of Ardnamurchan is the ruin of a castle, at a farm called Ardterinish (possibly the Inishtore of Ossian), on the Sound of Mull, where M'Donald of the Isles often resided, and held his courts and parliaments.

Duns, &c. Along the whole western coast of Argyleshire, in a vast number of places, may be seen the remains of those circular buildings, erected without cement, which are here called Duns, and which we formerly described under the appellation of Picts houses. In various quarters,

also, the remains are to be seen, more or less complete, of Druidical circles of great stones. Many grey stones also rear their heads in the heath, to mark the graves of fallen heroes. The remains are also frequently to be seen of cairns or heaps of stones that cover the graves where the ashes of the dead were deposited. Concerning some of these tradition is silent, and concerning others stories are still told, and the names of the warriors are repeated, whose ashes are supposed to be covered by the cairn. Thus, in the parish of Craignish, a spot is pointed out, which is said to have been the scene of a bloody engagement between the Danes and the natives. In this action Olaus, said to have been the son of the king of Denmark, was slain. Near the field of battle there is a little mount or tumulus, which is dignified by the name of this hero. It is called to this day *Dunan-Aula*, or, "the Little Mount of Olaus." There, it seems, he was interred; and not many years ago, as some workmen were employed in inclosing this spot, they discovered, after removing some loose stones, a grave composed of four flags. Upon inspecting this repository, they found an urn. Imagining they had got a treasure, they broke it; but, to their great disappointment, they found nothing there but the ashes of Olaus. General Campbell converted this mount into a family burying place. Antiquities.

At the east end of Loch Awe, on a rocky point, projecting into the lake, are to be seen the fine ruins of Castle Kilchurn. The square tower, still of a castellated form, was built in 1440 by Sir Colin Campbell, knight of Rhodes, and ancestor of the Breadalbane family. Successive additions were made to Castle Kilchurn, and part of it was garrisoned by the king's forces in the year 1745, to secure the peace and tranquillity of the country. But now this great mass of building is tumbling to the ground, Kilchurn Castle.

Antiquities. presenting a monument of the mutability of earthly grandeur, and of the unavoidable decay of the most durable works of human art. On a small island not far from Castle Kilchurn, called Traoch-Elan, was the Hesperides of this country. "The fair Mego longed for the delicious fruit of the isle guarded by a dreadful serpent. Traoch, who had long loved the maid, goes to gather the fruit. By the rustling of the leaves, the serpent was awaked from his sleep. It attacked the hero, who perished in the conflict. The monster was also destroyed. Mego did not long survive the death of her lover." Here are the ruins of a castle. In the year 1267 this little demesne, with its fortress and some contiguous lands, were granted by King Alexander the Third to Gilbert Macnaughton, the chief of that clan, on condition that he should entertain the king whenever he passed that way. The fatal attempt of Traoch is handed down from age to age in a beautiful Celtic tale after the manner of Ossian, the son of Fingal.

Eallang-Heirig. In the parish of Inverchaolin, at the mouth of Loch-ridden, there is a small island called Eallang-Heirig, the property of Mr Campbell of Saithhall, who is the principal landholder in this parish, memorable in the annals of the seventeenth century. In the year 1685, the unfortunate Archibald Earl of Argyle having, in concert with the Duke of Monmouth, attempted an invasion of the kingdom, brought with him three frigates and a considerable quantity of arms and ammunition. He landed at Dunstaffnage on the north-west coast of Argyleshire; and having collected an army of about 3000 men, he ordered his ships from Dunstaffnage to Eallang-Heirig, which he caused fortify in the best manner he could: there he deposited his spare arms and ammunition, under protection of his ships and a garrison of 180 men. But soon after,

three ships of war and some frigates arrived in the Frith of Clyde, and proceeded towards Eallang-Heirig, to whom the Earl's frigates and garrison immediately surrendered. In the castle of Eallang-Heirig were found 5000 stand of arms, 500 barrels of gunpowder, several cannon, and other implements of war. The captains of the frigates, after removing these stores, blew up the castle, which put an end to any farther hostile operations on the part of that unfortunate nobleman, who with his party found means to escape, but was soon afterwards taken, and met with a fate he little merited from his country. It was in consequence of the efforts which they made, and the misfortunes which they encountered in their opposition to the last princes of the house of Stuart, that the family of Argyle acquired a prodigious degree of popularity among the descendants of the old covenanters; that is, the steady Whigs and presbyterians of Scotland. Antiquities.

In the parish of Kilcalmonnel, is *Sliabb-Gaul*, "the Hill of Love," celebrated in ancient story as the scene of the death of Diarmid, the Achilles of the Fingalian heroes, and the great progenitor of the family of Campbell, who are known at this day by the name of *Clan Dhiarmaid*, "the Children or Clan of Diarmid." They form to this day the great mass of the population of this county. In the same parish are the remains of a vitrified fort.

In the parish of Killean is a vitrified tower and some rude obelisks. One of the obelisks, which stands on an eminence, to which it must have been carried from some considerable distance, measures sixteen feet above ground, and is four feet broad by two feet and a half thick; a curious monument of the knowledge which our forefathers must have had of the mechanic powers. Obelisks.

In the parish of Saddel are the ruins of a monastery of

Antiquities. Monastery of Saddel.

the Cistertian order, which was begun to be erected by Somerled Lord of Kintyre (who died in 1163), and was completed by his son Reginald. It was in the form of a cross. The length from east to west is about 136 feet by 24 over walls, and the transept from north to south about 78 feet by 24. The south end of the transept was extended 58 feet more, and made the side of a square which served for cloisters. There is very little of the church or cloisters now standing.

Skepness Castle.

Near the Point of Skepness stands the castle of that name. Its appearance is very noble. It can scarcely, even at this day, be called a ruin, though it must be a structure of great antiquity, being probably built by the Danes. It is somewhat singular, and much to be regretted, that no mention is made in the histories of the times of such a magnificent building. It is built with a cement apparently made up of a composition of lime, sea-shells, and earth of a dunnish colour, so exceedingly firm that it were easier to quarry a whin rock. Some parts of the walls seem to be of a later date than others; being thinner, and in a different style of architecture. The outer wall is seven feet thick, 33 feet in height, and 450 feet in length in all; but none of the sides are exactly of the same length. It has two projections of 13 feet square over walls; one at the south-east corner, and the other at the north-west corner, still called *Tur-an-t'Agaoil*, or the "Priest's Tower;" close by which there was a small chapel or oratory. At the north-east corner, and within the outer wall, there is a large tower or citadel, considerably higher than the outer wall, which is kept in good repair by the present proprietor, who roofed and floored it, so as to make exceeding good lodgings. Below there are excellent vaulted cellars. The stairs to the several apartments above run through the wall, and are far from being bad, though rather narrow, according to the taste

of the times. The entry to it was secured by a wall, stretching across the area to the north-west side of the outer wall, with a large gate in the middle. This gate, now partly taken down, as well as the two outer or principal gates, were in the Gothic style. The area within this cross wall was probably used as barracks; now converted, with great propriety, into a handsome court of offices. These, with other improvements, both within and without the castle, have a very pleasant effect; exhibiting to the eye, at one view, modern elegance and ancient grandeur happily combined together. Antiquities.

Upon almost every point of projection along the coast, there are to be seen small Duns, usually here called Danish forts. The most considerable is the Castle of Aord at Caradall. It is situated on a high rock close by the sea, on which side it is inaccessible, and secured on the land-side by a deep broad ditch. Nothing remains but a part of the outer wall, built with mud, and about six feet thick and twelve feet high where entire. It is 240 feet long and 72 broad. Near this, at the extremity of the point of land which forms the fine bay of Caradall, there is a small island, in the centre of which is to be seen the foundation of a vitrified wall of an elliptical form, surrounding about a rood of ground. The lava or cement is of a dark grey colour. Castle of Aord.

In the parish of Loch Goil Head is the Castle of Carrick, built upon a rock, which was formerly surrounded by the sea by means of a deep ditch. The entry to the castle from the land was by a drawbridge, which was defended by a strong wall and two small towers. The castle itself is of an oblong figure, but not perfectly regular; as the architects, in laying the foundation, kept in some places to the very edge of the rock. It is sixty-six feet long and thirty-eight broad over walls. The side wall is Castle of Carrick.

Antiquities. sixty-four feet high and seven feet thick. Between the castle and sea there is a part of the rock unoccupied, which was surrounded by a high and strong wall built round the edge of the rock. Within this space a hundred men might conveniently stand for the defence of the castle, if it were attacked by sea. Before the invention of gun-powder the castle of Carrick could not be taken but by surprise. It was scarcely possible to storm it. Nor could it be taken by blockade, as it had always a free communication with the sea; for a vessel of any burden will swim along the side of the rock. The time in which this castle was built does not seem to be ascertained. It can be traced up as far as the end of the fifteenth century, but it is probably much older. The tradition of the country is, that it was built by the Danes. It was a royal castle, and the Duke of Argyle was hereditary keeper of it. It was burned by the Atholmen. Nothing now remains but the walls, and these are not entire.

In the same parish is the old castle of Dunduramh. It is a large and strong tower, of an irregular figure, with small turrets above the angles in the wall; but as it is built in a low situation, it could only be a defence against the cursory attacks of hostile neighbours, or of thieves and robbers, who fought for plunder, and when repulsed fled away. Above the gate of the castle is the following inscription:

1596.
I Man Behold.The.End of all.Benought.
Wiser.Than.The.Heistes.I.trust.In God.

Ardkinglass. The Castle of Ardkinglass is composed of three separate towers, each of them fronting an area within. The space between the towers is defended by a strong wall about fifteen feet high. In the course of this wall is the great gate, which is defended by small round turrets in

flank, with apertures, through which those who assailed the gate might be annoyed with arrows, or with small fire-arms. The gate is also defended by a small tower immediately above it, called the Gate Tower. Around the area, and within the walls, are smaller buildings, for lodging servants, for holding arms, and for storehouses and cellars. This castle is also built in a low situation, and could not stand out against a regular investment. The time in which this castle was built is not known; but there is certain evidence of its having been repaired in the year 1586. The old residence of the family of Ardkinglass, of which the ruins can now scarcely be traced, was at a small distance from the present castle, but in a more commanding situation. Antiquities.

In the parish of Southend, the old castle of Dunaverty deserves to be mentioned as the scene of some historical events. There is on one side a tremendous precipice hanging over the sea; on the other, the hill on which it is situated rises in the form of a pyramid. Nature was assisted by art in making this a very strong hold. The sea nearly surrounds it, and the fosse is covered with a drawbridge; after which, two or three walls, one within the other, fortified the ascent. On the top of this rock the Lord of the Isles had one of his castles, in which Robert Bruce took refuge for some nights during his adversity, as appears from his life by Archdeacon Barbour. There also Alexander M'Donald, known by the name of Alister, son of Coll Kettach, who had raised a party of Irish and Highlanders, calling themselves royalists, to assist Montrose in the civil wars, had his last palladium. Three hundred of his men were pursued by General Lesslie, and besieged there, in the 1647. Being reduced to great distress by the want of water, they were persuaded to surrender at discretion, after which they were barbarously Dunaverty.

Antiquities. massacred. The general, on this occasion, seems to have been a nice casuist. He thought he kept his word by distinguishing between the discretion of the estates (which was the expression made use of in the treaty) and his own discretion, by which they were put to death. His adjutant-general, Sir James Turner, in his account of this transaction, seems desirous to lay a share of the guilt to the account of a Mr Nair, who urged that sparing the enemies of God and the kirk would involve him in the like sin and curse of Saul in sparing the Amalekites. To shew mercy to them, however, adds the historian, would have been more like a Christian.

Old Saints. The parish of Campbeltown consisted, till lately, of four distinct parishes. One of these was dedicated to St Ciaran; the three others were dedicated to the Saints Couslan, Michael, and Caomhghen (pronounced Cowin, and translated Clement). Each probably laboured to plant the gospel in that parish, which out of gratitude preserved his name. Of the two last, some account may be seen in the *Sanctologies;* but we do not recollect to have met with any written account of the first, although the many fragments of elegant crosses found here (which were so numerous as to give their name to the adjacent farm) give reason to believe that the church was much frequented, and the saint of no ordinary fame. Of Cowin's exalted merit a most honourable testimony may be seen in the Gaelic address or invocation to him, preserved in an ancient missal, and beginning with, "O Cowin, now with Archangels," &c. These two saints, however, Couslan and Cowin, though both of an unquestionable piety, seem to have had ideas on some subjects totally different. Couslan, for instance, inculated in the strongest manner the indissolubility of the marriage tie (a point probably as necessary to be inculcated in his time as in our

own); and if lovers did not yet find it convenient to marry, their joining hands through a hole in a rude pillar near his church, was held, as it continued to be till almost the present day, an interim tie of mutual fidelity, so strong and sacred, that it is generally believed in the country none ever broke it who did not soon after break his neck, or meet with some other fatal accident. Cowin, in his district, took a quite different course. He proposed that all who did not find themselves happy and contented in the married state should be indulged with the opportunity of parting and making a second choice. For that purpose he instituted an annual solemnity, at which all the unhappy couples in his parish were to assemble at his church; and at midnight all present were sufficiently blindfolded, and ordered to surround the church at full speed, with a view *of mixing the lots in the urn*. The moment the ceremony was over, without allowing an instant to recover from the confusion, the word *cabbag*, "seize quickly," was pronounced; upon which every man laid hold of the first female he met with. Whether old or young, handsome or ugly, good or bad, she was his wife till the next anniversary return of the solemnity, when he had as good a chance (if he chose to submit to such hazard) of getting a worse or a better bargain. The saint soon brought his parishioners to understand that they had reason to be satisfied with a condition, which with all his Christian licence there was little prospect of mending by a change; and for many ages the custom has been only handed down by tradition. The ruins of the chapels of St Couslan and St Cowin having had the good fortune to be at a convenient distance from houses, are in tolerable preservation, and the ground about them is still sacred to sepulture. That of St Michael, surrounded by farmers houses, and, in the true Scottish style, destitute of

Antiquities.

Antiquities. inclosure, was found to be suitable to other uses, to which the most of it has been and still is applied.

The Castle of Dunoon was once a royal castle, of which the family of Argyle were constables. They at one period lived there; and many of their vassals had houses built in the village of Dunoon for their residence when they attended the court of their chieftain. These circumstances, with the ferry towards Greenock, and the parish church, gave rise to the village. Near the castle is *Tom-a-Mhord*, or the "Hill or Court of Justice;" and *Cuspars*, or the *Butts* for shooting with the bow and arrow. The butts are now down; but the field where they were placed, though ploughed, still bears that name. The village of Dunoon was also the place where the bishops of Argyle resided in the last period of episcopacy in Scotland, instead of the island of Lismore.

The proprietors of this county have in general deserted the ancient towers and castles in which their predecessors resided, and have formed for themselves commodious modern mansions; many of which, such as Strachur Park, Appin House, and various others, are considerable ornaments to the country. But the House of Inverary, the principal seat of the Duke of Argyle, is the chief ornament of the West Highlands. The approach to it on the road from Glasgow is very magnificent. Loch Fyne, on its northern extremity, is very narrow, but it gradually widens; and on passing a steep hill at some distance from Inverary, a most delightful landscape opens to the view. The lake here appears a large bay, round which are ranged the beautiful plantations of the Duke of Argyle, covering the ground, to a vast extent, from the lake to the summits of the highest mountains. The castle, rearing its towers above the woods, has a very picturesque effect; to the south-east of which, and close to the bay,

Inverary Castle.

appears the town of Inverary in an uniform line of hand- Antiquities.
some buildings. On the right is a fine view of Dunicoich, a steep hill, 700 feet perpendicular, covered with wood almost to the summit.

Inverary Castle, on the western side of Loch Fyne, stands upon a gentle rise, and is surrounded by a spacious area, bounded by an amphitheatre of mountains, some of which are rugged and broken, others entirely covered with wood. One of these mountains is Dunicoich, already noticed. It is covered with wood, excepting where the rugged rocks project through the trees, and add greatly to its grandeur. On its top stands a lonely watch-tower, which, like every thing useful or characteristic, has a good effect. Had this hill been crowned with an ornamental building, the effect would have been absurd. A plan, however, was once proposed for ornamenting this hill with ramparts and bastions, which, if executed, would entirely have destroyed its simplicity and grandeur. Through the lawn before the castle, the Arey, a fine rapid stream, runs into the loch.

Loch Fyne is the glory of the scene. It spreads out into a noble bay before the front of the castle; forming an irregular circle of about twelve or fourteen miles in circumference, beautifully indented with a variety of peninsulas, and surrounded by mountains. It is, as Mr Gilpin says, an object not only beautiful in itself, but it makes a fine contrast with the woods and mountains around it.

The House of Inverary, though by no means an old bulding, is built in the form of a castle, seemingly upon the plan of the mansions of some of the German nobility. It is a square building, with a tower at each corner, and a high glazed pavilion, shooting up above the towers from

Antiquities. the centre of the roof, which gives the whole an appearance well suited to the scene. This noble mansion relies on its own merits, and its situation to attract the attention of the stranger. It presents no white or splendid colour to the eye, forming an ostentatious contrast to the shady groves which surround it; but its grey sombre hue harmonizes with the scene, and gives an air of tranquillity and dignity to the whole. It is built of *lapis ollaris*, brought from the opposite side of the loch; a stone that will in all probability long stand the effects of the weather, but which is extremely soft, and wears with friction. The stone steps at the entrance are very much worn. This stone is called *lapis ollaris*, or pot-stone, because the ancients used to form it into pots and other utensils. A single shower of rain turns this stone almost black; but a gleam of the sun restores its original colour. In this weeping climate a stranger will scarcely fail to have an opportunity of observing the phenomenon alluded to.

The hall of the house is very spacious, hung round with arms and other ornaments suited to the style of a Highland castle. This room is lighted by the high middle windows; and is sursounded by a gallery, in which is an organ, that must have a grand and striking effect on the ear. This is by much the largest room in the house, and the only one perfectly corresponding to the magnificent exterior of the castle. The other rooms are fitted up in a modern style, with exquisite taste. The large drawing-room, particularly, is a noble apartment, adorned with beautiful tapestry. The turret rooms serve chiefly as small libraries or private parlours, and are most of them ornamented with good prints.

Portraits. The portraits are the only valuable paintings. There is a fine one of the late Duke of Hamilton; it was painted

in Italy. There is also a head of the Marquis of Argyle, who made a distinguished figure in the reign of Charles the First, and during the usurpation. He is in a black dress, with short hair. Pennant has given a character of him, which, though somewhat overcharged, is not destitute of truth: "He was a man of craft and subtility, and in his heart no friend to the royal cause, but temporising according to the complexion of the times; concurring heartily, but secretly, with the disaffected powers, and extending a faint and timid aid to the shackled royalty of Charles the Second, when in the year 1650 he entrusted himself to his northern subjects. He was at all times providing pleas of merit with both parties, but was apparently sincere with the usurpers only. With them he took an active part during their plenitude of power; yet at first only claimed protection, freedom, and payment of his debts due from the English parliament. His own interest seems to have been constantly in view. While Charles was in his hands, he received from that penetrating prince a promissory note for great honours and emoluments. He is charged with encouraging his people in various acts of murder and cruelty: but the provocations he had received from the horrible ravages of Montrose may perhaps extenuate retaliation on those of his neighbours who, for any thing that appears, partook of the excesses. He is charged also with possessing himself of the estates of those who were put to death by his authority; a charge which his fine defence on his trial does not repel. His generosity in declining to take an open part in the prosecution of his arch-enemy Montrose would have done him great honour, had he not meanly placed himself in a window to see the fallen hero pass in a cart to receive judgement. On the restoration he fell a victim to his *manes*. It was intended that he should undergo the same ignomi- Antiquities.

Antiquities. nious death, which was afterwards changed to that of beheading. 'I could,' said he, 'die like a Roman, but I choose rather to die like a Christian.' He fell with heroism: in his last moments, with truth, exculpating himself from having any concern in the murder of his royal master; and calming his conscience with the opinion that his criminal compliances were but the epidemic disease and fault of his times. His guilt of treason is indisputable; but the acts of grace in 1641 and 1651 ought certainly to have secured him from capital punishment."

Here is likewise a head of his son, the Earl of Argyle, whose character was very different from that of his father. He was steady and virtuous, and firm to the trust reposed in him by Charles the Second during all the misfortunes of that prince. He steadily supported him, and in 1650 refused to receive his commission as colonel of the king's guards from the states of Scotland; but, for the preservation of the royal prerogative, insisted on receiving it from Charles alone, whom the Scots had raised to the throne of their kingdom, in opposition to Cromwel and the English parliament. In every respect he acted a moderate and patriotic part. After the complete restoration of Charles the Second to the throne of England, he refused to acquiesce in the unprincipled and tyrannical measures which the ministers of that prince adopted in Scotland. In 1601, they had framed an oath or test, which they required all persons to take; but Argyle, acting conscientiously, thought it necessary to make an explanation of the oath. The result was, that under the same prince, to whom he had steadily adhered in his utmost adversity, he was brought to trial and condemned without a crime; and the infamous sentence would have been executed, if he had not escaped from the power of his enemies. In 1685, in concert with the Duke of Monmouth, he made the un-

successful attempt, formerly noticed, to restore the liber- Antiquities.
ties and preserve the protestant religion of Scotland, both of which were then invaded by James the Second. Having been made a prisoner, he was put to death on his former sentence. On the day of his execution he eat his dinner cheerfully, took a sleep after it, and fell with a calmness suitable to the integrity of his life.

The old residence of the Argyle family was a very large and strong castle, within a small distance of the present one, towards the river, which has been taken down within these thirty years. The hills were formerly naked, and the grounds possessed the savage roughness common to uncultivated parts of this country; and it does not appear that any thing considerable was done towards the improvement and embellishment of the place till about the middle of the century before the last, when the Marquis of Argyle, before mentioned, began to plant a few trees and project some other improvements. It is probable, however, that he was early diverted from this purpose by the confusion of the times; and that nothing was afterwards done till the re-establishment of the Earl his son, which took place some time between the year 1663 and 1670. During the short period of his possession, it appears that he had particularly bent his thoughts towards beautifying the family seat. Almost the whole of the oldest trees about Inverary are of his planting, and remain a signal instance of his good taste and discernment respecting what was best adapted to the nature of the soil and climate. Some of the most admired avenues, rows of trees, and plantations, were designed by him, and plainly show, that had he lived longer he would have done much. Since the beginning of the last century, the several successors to the estate and honours of Argyle have been particularly attentive to extending their plantations and em-

Antiquities. bellishing the place. The present castle was begun about the year 1745 by Archibald Duke of Argyle. He, however, finished little, more than the shell. The rebellion breaking out at the time, interrupted the work. It was in a few years after resumed and finished. Since that time large sums have been annually expended by his successors, the two last dukes, in improvements and decorations. It is said that the money laid out since 1745, in planting, improving, making roads, and other works of utility and decoration, about Inverary Castle, amount to L.250,000; and the late Duke, after his accession to the estate, expended at least L.3000 *per annum* in this way. Every walk in the environs of this noble mansion astonishes a stranger with the immense quantity of wood by which it is surrounded. It is supposed to be worth little less than L.200,000. The thinning of the woods produces no less than L.1500 annually. From an elevated spot on the base of Dunicoich is an advantageous view of the castle, town, and loch, forming a most magnificent and beautiful scene. There is a winding walk to the summit of the hill, from whence a fine view is obtained of the ornamented grounds of the Duke, extending to nearly thirty miles in circumference.

ISLANDS OF ARGYLESHIRE.

ARGYLESHIRE contains a great number of islands. Of these only four small islands are situated to the north of the Point of Ardnamurchan; viz. Cannay, Sanday, Rum, and Muck. These, with the Island of Egg, formerly described under the head of Inverness-shire, form the parish of Small Isles. The Island of Cannay lies in the channel between Sky and the Long Island, or chain of islands extending from Lewis on the north to Bernera on the south. Cannay is about four computed miles long, and one broad. It consists partly of high and partly of low ground, of considerable fertility. Its cattle grow to what is accounted in the Highlands a large size. On the south-east side of Cannay lies an islet called Sanday, separated from it by a strait, which is only covered at high water. This small island is valued on account of its soil. Between this island and Cannay lies the well known and much frequented harbour of that name. This harbour is safe, especially for ships of moderate size. It is, however, shallow and confined; and without a favourable wind it is difficult to enter or to leave it: and this inconvenience is increased by a large rock without the mouth of it, which is sometimes wholly under water. Cannay.

In Cannay there is a great deal of the rock called Plumb-pudding rock (*breccia*); and that, in some places, connected with the basaltic rock. A singular instance of this is a steep and lofty rock called Corrandhun, on the top of which a small ruinous building remains. Not many yards

Cannay. distant from this is a rock of the plumpudding kind, which is sometimes surrounded by the sea. On the side of it next the rock, considerably above the level of the sea, there is, in a horizontal position, apparently the remains of a tree, the wood of which seems to be in a decaying state, forming a part of the solid rock, and having at least five or six fathoms of the rock above it. There is no room to doubt that it has been wood, and its fibres have a near resemblance to those of oak. Its situation makes it one one of the greatest curiosities discovered in any country.

Unusual petrefaction.

Compass Hill.

One of the curiosities of the island is the Compass Hill in Cannay. It is called the Compass Hill, from its extraordinary effect upon the mariner's compass. When a compass is brought to a particular situation thereon, its needle is immediately reversed. The same effect is produced by a steep rock on the north side of the entrance of the harbour when a compass is brought near it. Basaltic pillars are found upon the coast of this island.

Singular custom.

A whimsical custom exists here, which is, that at Michaelmas day every man mounts his horse, unfurnished with saddle, and takes behind him either some young girl or his neighbour's wife, and then rides backwards and forwards from the village to a certain cross, without being able to give any reason for the origin of this custom. After the procession is over, they alight at some public house, where, strange to say, the females treat the companions of their ride. When they retire to their houses, an entertainment is prepared with primæval simplicity. The chief part consists of a great oat cake, called *Struan Michael*, or "St Michael's cake," composed of two pecks of meal, and formed like the quadrant of a circle. It is daubed over with milk and eggs, and then placed to harden before the fire. Matrimony is held in such esteem here, that an old maid or old bachelor is

scarcely known. Hence large emigrations necessarily take place; and the failure, in any degree, of the crop, produces the danger of a famine. About twenty tons of kelp are made upon the shores every third year. Till lately, that cotton goods have been introduced, all the clothing was manufactured at home: The women not only spin the wool, but weave the cloth: The men make their own shoes, tan the leather with the bark of willows, or the roots of the *tormentilla erecta*, or tormentil; and in defect of wax-thread use split thongs. The property of the island belongs to Mr M'Donald of Clanronald. It anciently belonged to the Bishop of the Isles. Here, as in other places in the Highlands, the farms, which are five in number, are little townships. The arable land in every farm is divided into four parts, and lots are cast for them at Christmas. The produce, when reaped and dried, is divided among them in proportion to their rents; and for want of mills is ground in the quern. All the pasture is common from May to the beginning of September. Cod and ling abound on the east coast of Cannay. Rum.

Rum is the largest of the small isles now under consideration. It is about eight miles long, and nearly of the same breadth, containing 22,000 square acres. It is inferior in fertility to the other isles, being in general rugged, mountainous, and barren, and fitter for pasture than for agriculture. Horses are reared in it for sale. They are remarkable for their small size, and their high spirit and hardiness. A considerable number of sheep and black cattle are also reared here; but the sheep are generally of the small white-faced sort, which were the original sheep of the Highlands. In Rum there were formerly great numbers of deer: there was also a copse of wood that afforded cover to their fawn from birds of prey, particularly from the eagle. While the wood throve, the Rum.

Rum. deer also throve. Now that the wood is totally destroyed, the deer are extirpated. Before the use of fire-arms, their method of killing deer was as follows: On each side of a glen formed by two mountains, stone dikes were begun pretty high in the mountains, and carried to the lower part of the valleys, always drawing nearer till within three or four feet of each other. From this narrow pass a circular place was inclosed by a stone wall, of a height sufficient to confine the deer. To this place they were pursued and destroyed. The vestige of one of these inclosures is still to be seen in Rum. In some of the high hills of Rum ptarmigans are found. In respect of size, they are somewhat less than grouse; and, for security against birds of prey, they assume the colour of the ground. In cold seasons they are as white as snow; in other seasons they are spotted white and blue, like the craggy cliffs among which they live. The other birds are the same as in the west of Scotland. The migratory birds are rails, cuckows, woodcocks, swallows, arctic gulls, and soland geese.

Harbour. The only harbour in Rum is Loch Serefort, on the east coast. It bears east and west, and runs a considerable way into the island. It is easy of access, the entrance being pretty wide. There are some sunk rocks on the south side of the entrance. Between these rocks and the north side are about three-fourths of its whole breadth perfectly clear, affording sufficient room to tack in or out at pleasure. The harbour is only open to the eastward, and consequently there is seldom any great swell. It is spacious, its ground good, its depth of water from five to seven fathoms, and there is a good outlet either north or south. Near the head, and on the south side of this harbour, a pier was begun a few years since, which is still carried on, but not finished. This is sustained as

statute labour. This harbour, to be frequented, needs only to be better known; as it is not only commodious in itself, but lies convenient for supplies of beef and mutton at a very moderate rate. The general form of Rum is, that the land slopes towards the east; but on the south-west forms precipices of a tremendous height. At the foot of Sgormor, opposite to Cannay, are found abundance of agates, of that species called by Cronstedt *Achates Chalcedonisans;* improperly, white cornelians: Several singular strata, such as grey quartz stone; another, a mixture of quartz and basaltes; a black stone spotted with white like porphyry, but with the appearance of a lava; fine grit or freestone; and the cinereous indurated bole of Cronstedt. This island having no mill, the corn is *graddanned,* or burnt out of the ear, instead of being thrashed. This is performed two ways: First, by cutting off the ears and drying them in a kiln; then setting fire to them on a floor, and picking out the grains, by this operation rendered as black as coal. The other method is more expeditious: For the whole sheaf is burnt without the trouble of cutting off the ears; a most ruinous practice, as it destroys both thatch and manure, and on that account has been wisely prohibited in some of the islands. *Graddanned* corn was the parched corn of holy writ. Thus Boaz presents his beloved Ruth with parched corn; and Jesse sends David with an ephah of the same to his son in the camp of Saul. We have already remarked, that in ancient times the grinding was performed by the same sort of quern or hand-mill. By the aid of the mosses upon its hills the inhabitants of Rum obtain abundance of fuel; of which those in other isles, particularly in Cannay, are often in want

Rum.

The Isle of Muck is between two and three miles in length and one in breadth. It lies about four miles to the

Muck. south-west of the Island of Egg. Its surface is pretty low, and the soil good. It contains only one hill, of no great height. Its cattle attain to a considerable size. On the north-west side of Isle Muck lies *Eilean-nan-Each*, "Island of Horses." Between them is a foul, rocky, narrow channel, which frequently ebbs dry. This island is of inconsiderable extent, but good for pasture. In Isle Muck there are a few creeks, which afford shelter to small boats, but no safe harbour for vessels. In two of these creeks are piers in an imperfect state.

This island is ill provided with fuel, and imports peat from the Island of Rum.

In former times this group of islands is said to have had names sometimes given them different from those which they now bear. Thus Egg was called *Eillan-nan-Bannere*, "the island of the great woman;" Rum was called *Riogbachd-na-Ferraisle-Fiadhaich*, "the kingdom of the wild forest;" Cannay was called *An-t-Eillan-Turasmin*, "the island lying across;" and Isle Muck, *Fir Chrainne*, "the sow's island." But these may be supposed poetical names given by the Gaelic bards; and the superstitious are said to have used them, and them only, when at sea and bound for these islands.

The croup, pleurisy, and hooping cough, are the diseases most fatal in these islands. A great proportion of the inhabitants are Roman catholics. A catholic priest and a presbyterian minister both reside in Egg, and visit the other islands occasionally. The inhabitants are said to be very tolerant, and in the absence of the one priest they attend the other. Indeed the Highlanders were never very scrupulous in religious matters. They usually took their religion from their chieftain, in the same manner as their consciences always found him in the right in every dispute. Their chiefs, on the other hand, submitted by

degrees to the religion, as they were under the necessity of submitting to the government, which prevailed in the more populous and fertile territory of the south of Scotland. Coll.

The remaining islands of Argyleshire lie to the south of the Point of Ardnamurchan, or in the same latitude with the continental part of the county. The most western are the islands of Coll and Tirey; both of which are long and narrow, stretching from north-east to south-west. Coll is the more northern, and Tirey the more southern of the two. The island of Coll is about thir- Coll.
teen miles in length, and three in breadth. The shores are rocky, and in many places precipitous. The interior parts of the isle rise, but to no lofty elevation; and the surface is diversified by craggy but inconsiderable eminences over all its extent. The springs, small lakes, and narrow streams, are numerous; the lakes not fewer than forty-eight, of which nineteen abound in trouts. The soil is either peat earth, or a light thin gravel, upon a bottom of rock or sand. Here are no trees. Heath covers the greater part of the isle. Fields of corn and green grasses are here and there interspersed. No reptiles infest Coll. Geese of three different sorts, swans, rails, green and grey plovers, and mouse-coloured swallows, are the most remarkable of the birds of this isle. Multitudes of rabbits burrow in the sand at its east end: for a driving sand there encroaches gradually on the soil, as in the Uists, before described. A couple of hares, introduced about eight or nine years since, have multiplied in that space of time to many hundreds. Mr M'Lean of Coll is proprietor of the greater part of the island; but portions at its two extremities belong to the Duke of Argyle. Its inhabitants are in number 1041. Here are artisans in all the more necessary mechanic arts, but none eminently

Coll. expert in their employments. Coll being very advantageously situated for the fishing, whenever the natives have gone out upon the banks, their successes have been such as to enable them to persevere in cultivating this department of industry: yet are the adjacent fishing banks frequented chiefly by fishers from Barray, from Ireland, from Air, and from the east coast of Scotland. But fishes are continually taken for domestic use, if not for exportation. The inclemency of the seasons, and the naked condition of the island, have rendered sheep so unprofitable an article of stock, that they have been almost wholly banished from Coll. Other reasons also concurred to recommend this economy. The wetness of the pasture is destructive to sheep in winter. In summer they suffer by cropping certain noxious weeds. They break the surface, so as to favour the driving of the sands; and they consume all the more nourishing plants, so as to render the soil unfit for feeding black cattle. Black cattle are the favourite living farm stock. Some of the large breed have been introduced. One of these, after having been some time fed by Mr Spearman of Northumberland, was lately found to weigh, in beef, tallow, and hide, 117 stone 5½ pounds. Thirteen hundred are the sum of the black cattle in Coll; of these, 30 are, at an average, slaughtered in the island, and 250 exported. The sheep are 500. The horses are many. A full-grown horse brings a price between L.2 and L.5. Fifty-five tons of kelp are annually made on the shores of Coll. Agriculture begins to be improved in the island. Inclosures begin to be extended over the farms. Roads are made and repaired. The ploughing is indeed awkward and inconvenient. Two men with two horses first guide and drag the restle, which cuts without opening the furrow. These are followed by the Scottish plough, drawn by four hor-

ses, and guided by other two men, which opens up the furrow and turns over the sod. Sea-ware, the manure in this as in the other isles, is conveyed from the shore to the field in creels, two upon a horse's back. The crop, however plentiful, can scarcely ever afford an adequate compensation for the labour necessary to raise it. Here is no good mill. When the black oats and barley have been reaped and gathered in, the corn required for daily use is parched, and then ground in the quern, at a great waste of straw, of grain, and of womens labour. A great part of the barley is consumed in the distillation of whisky, of which there is a quantity annually exported from Coll. A considerable portion of the labour of summer is necessary to cut, to dry, and to bring home, peats for fuel. Flax and hemp are raised, but not in large quantities. Grass seeds have been sown with sufficient advantage. At Crossapool, in this island, is a lead mine. The Castle of Coll is a strong square-built fabric, with turrets, &c. It is still in tolerable repair. Tirey.

Tirey, to the south of Coll, is about eleven miles long and two miles and a half broad. The coast is mostly rocky, intersected with many beautiful sandy bays, some of them a mile broad at the head. About one-half of the surface is arable, interspersed with small rocks and rising grounds, none of which are above 250 feet above the sea-level; but the surface in general is so even that its ancient name was *Riog-Hachd-bar-Fathuin;* i. e. "the kingdom whose summits are lower than the waves:" And this name, still used in the popular dialect of the Hebrides, describes the low situation of the island, as the waves are often seen from the one shore rising apparently several feet above the level of the other. In the interior of the island are not fewer than twenty-four small lakes, covering in all about 600 acres, many of which might easily be drained. In one of these is a small island, on which was a square tur- Tirey.

Tirey. setted castle, with an entrance by a drawbridge. Upon the ruins of this a neat house is erected for the residence of the Duke of Argyle's factor; and the island was made a peninsula. The soil of Tirey is various, from a black mossy earth to sand; which last is the most prevalent. The crops are generally bear and black oats, with potatoes and small quantities of lint. There is no wood on the island; but, like the other islands of the Hebrides, large roots and trunks of trees are found in all the mosses. The fisheries employ a number of hands, as well as the manufacture of kelp, of which there is annually burnt about 245 tons. The number of sheep in the island is 600, of black cattle 1800, and of horses 1400. There is a regular ferry from this island to Coll, three miles distant; which is often dangerous, owing to a heavy swell from the Atlantic, and a rapid current and breakers over shifting sands and rocks. From Coll there is a stated ferry to Mull.

Caverns. The Ceanm-harra, the west point of Tirey, is very remarkable for a great number of large natural caves, frequented in time of hatching by innumerable flocks of sea fowls. The height of some of the caves (160 feet), the sea bellowing in below, and thousands of fowls, with discordant notes, crowding in upon the cliffs, form a hideous scene. In other magnificent caves, the raven, the hawk, or the eagle, build their lofty nests. Separate from all these, the pigeons have chosen their habitations. Hither their enemy, at the risk of his life, descends a very unpleasant stair, carrying fire and a bundle of straw, to which he sets fire. The smoke suffocating them, they fly into the flames, attached to the light, apparently the passage to escape. Thus numbers of them are caught. At the distance of six leagues westward from the hill, lie a clustre of unhospitable rocks, called Sceir-Mhor, to which young adventurers, before sun-rising, in a calm

summer day, go in quest of sport. The skins of the seals, the old inhabitants of the rocks and seas, which they kill with clubs or bullets, commonly measure from six to eight feet in length. Hard whinstone and granite are the principal stones, and there is abundance of ironstone and limestone, which latter in one quarry is of the nature of marble. This is of various colours, variegated with beautiful figures, and takes a fine polish. It is now come into very general use for inside ornaments in houses. It is said that Mr Raspe discovered wolfram on this island. There is a plain called the Reef near the centre of Tirey, reckoned by travellers a very great curiosity. It is almost a pentagon of 1200 Scottish acres, with a sandy bottom, mostly covered with black earth ten inches deep—a beautiful carpet variegated with flowers. It seems to have been gained from the sea—the work of ages. The part next the shore has received considerable additions within the present generation. It has three curved green banks, each about two feet high; upon which it appears the sea had formerly beat. Between these banks the ground is surprisingly level. The greatest height above high water mark is about six feet, except a small green hill near the centre nine feet higher. Tirey.

On all the islands already described, as well as on Tirey, the remains of the ancient buildings called Duns are to be seen. On the rocks round the coast of Tirey and Coll, the remains of no less than thirty-nine of these buildings are placed. They are in sight of each other, and are all of a similar structure to those formerly described; that is, they have two walls without any appearance of lime or other cement. The inner wall is always circular, but the outer sometimes assumes the form of the rock on which it stands. At the above mentioned hill of Ceaam-harra, on a very rugged declivity, is St Patrick's

Tirey. Temple. The vestige of a wall incloses it in one-third of an acre of land. It is twenty-six by eleven feet within walls; the side walls five feet and a half high; one gable six inches thicker than the other; without a roof, and ill built of stone and lime. A square altar in the east end is still eighteen inches high; the cross without the pedestal four feet. Within sixty yards of it, on the shore, on the top of a rock, is made a hollow, two feet diameter and four feet deep, called by the country people St Patrick's Vat. There are nine or ten large stones in different parts of the parish, seemingly erected as monuments. British, Danish, and other small silver coins have been found buried in small earthen vessels. In a stack-yard, at Cornaigbeg in Tirey, in digging pits in sandy ground, to secure potatoes during winter and spring, there were found at different times human skeletons, and nigh them the skeletons of horses. They seemed to have been completely armed according to the times. Two hundred swords were found diminished with rust; silver work preserved the handles. There were also shields and helmets with a brass spear.

Lochnangaul. Proceeding eastward, towards the mainland of Scotland, it is to be observed, that the large island of Mull is almost cut into two equal parts, and is in fact formed into two parts, by a deep bay of the Atlantic, called Lochnankell, or Lochnangaul, which penetrates into the country so far as to be scarce three miles distant from the east coast of the island on the Sound of Mull, or strait that divides it from the mainland. In this great bay are situated several islands. Staffa is in the centre, and Icolmkill or Iona at the southern extremity. Besides these, there are in this bay some small islands of inferior note on its northern side. In the very mouth of the bay, towards the north, is a clustre of isles called the Treish-

nish or Treshunish Isles, about four leagues west of Mull. Of this clustre the chief isles are Cairnbulg and Little Cairnbulg; on both of which are the remains of ancient castles. None of the Treishnish isles are inhabited. Ulva, &c.

Ulva is a small isle lying south-east from Coll, and close upon the south-west shore of Mull. Its general aspect is barren and rocky. It has land fit as well for agriculture as for pasture. Fishes may be caught in abundance around the coast. Sea-weeds grow on the shores. It has from the most ancient times been accounted fertile, and affords at present grain more than sufficient for the support of its inhabitants. It was long the seat of the ancient family of the M'Quarrys. It is little more than two miles in circumference. The Sound of Ulva, or strait that divides it from Mull, affords safe anchoring ground for coasting vessels. Ulva.

Adjacent to Ulva, on its western side, is the still smaller isle of Gometra, remarkable only for some basaltic pillars, and for two bays or harbours: one facing the south, and the other the north; both accounted safe for small vessels. Gometra.

On the southern side of Ulva is Inchkenneth, scarcely a mile distant from the coast of Mull. It may be about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. It is destitute of trees, but verdant; affording rich pasture, and sufficiently susceptible of tillage. It was once a seminary of monks, dependent on the latter island. The vestiges of a chapel still remain. Here Dr Samuel Johnson was hospitably entertained by Sir Allan M'Lean and his daughters, who had an elegant residence on this sequestered spot. Inchkenneth.

We next proceed to take notice of the celebrated Island of Staffa. This island, though it may be regarded as one Staffa.

Staffa. of the greatest curiosities in the world, has till lately been scarcely known. It is just mentioned by Buchannan by name; and though the native Hebridians considered the cave as one of the seats or palaces of their hero Fingal, it was never regarded by any intelligent traveller. A Mr Leach seems to be among the first that noticed it. He was a native of England; and being on a visit at Drimnen, in Morven, on one of his fishing excursions, he happened to go near it. Being struck with the singularity of its appearance, he landed upon it and examined it particularly. This was in the year 1772. A few days afterwards Sir Joseph Banks, in his way to Iceland, cast anchor in the Sound of Mull, opposite to Drimnen, and was immediately invited to land by Mr M'Lean, who entertained him and his party with great hospitality. Here Mr Leach related to Sir Joseph what he had seen; which excited his curiosity so strongly, that he could not resist the offer made by this gentleman to accompany him to Staffa. Sir Joseph Banks afterwards published, or rather allowed Pennant to publish, an account of his expedition, in such terms of admiration as excited great curiosity; and it has since been visited by a variety of persons. "We arrived," says he, "at the south-west part of the island, the seat of the most remarkable pillars; where we no sooner arrived than we were struck with a scene of magnificence which exceeded our expectations, though formed, as we thought, upon the most sanguine foundations: The whole of that end of the island supported by ranges of natural pillars, mostly above fifty feet high, standing in natural colonnades, according as the bays or points of land formed themselves; upon a firm basis of solid unformed rock, above these, the stratum which reaches to the soil or surface of the island, varied in thickness, as the island itself formed into hills or val-

Description by Banks.

leys; each hill, which hung over the columns below, forming an ample pediment; some of these above sixty feet in thickness from the base to the point, formed by the sloping of the hill on each side, almost into the shape of those used in architecture. Compared to this, what are the cathedrals or the palaces built by men? Mere models or playthings! imitations as diminutive as his works will always be when compared to those of Nature! Where is now the boast of the architect? Regularity, the only part in which he fancied himself to exceed his mistress, Nature, is here found in her possession; and here it has been for ages undescribed. Is not this the school where the art was originally studied? And what has been added to this by the whole Grecian school? a capital to ornament the column of Nature, of which they could execute only a model; and for that very capital they were obliged to a bush of acanthus. How amply does Nature repay those who study her wonderful works! With our minds full of such reflections, we proceeded along the shore, treading upon another Giant's Causeway, every stone being regularly formed into a certain number of sides and angles, till in a short time we arrived at the mouth of a cave, the most magnificent I suppose that has ever been described by travellers. Staffa.

"The mind can hardly form an idea more magnificent than such a space, supported on each side by ranges of columns, and roofed by the bottoms of those which have been broke off in order to form it; between the angles of which a yellow stalagmitic matter has exuded, which serves to define the angles precisely, and at the same time vary the colour with a great deal of elegance: And to render it still more agreeable, the whole is lighted from without; so that the farthest extremity is very plainly seen from without: and the air within, being agitated by Fingal's cave.

Staffa. the flux and reflux of the tides, is perfectly dry and wholesome, free entirely from the damp vapours with which natural caverns in general abound. We asked the name of it. Said our guide, 'The Cave of Fhinn.' 'What is Fhinn?' said we. 'Fhinn M'Coul, whom the translator of Ossian's works has called Fingal.' How fortunate, that in this cave we should meet with the remembrance of that chief, whose existence, as well as that of the whole epic poem, is almost doubted in England! Enough for the beauties of Staffa. I shall now proceed to describe it and its productions more philosophically.

"The little island of Staffa lies on the west coast of Mull, about three leagues north-east from Iona, or I-Columb-Kill. Its greatest length is about an English mile, and its breadth about half a one. On the west side of the isle is a small bay, where boats generally land; a little to the southward of which the first appearance of pillars are to be observed. They are small; and instead of being placed upright, lie down on their sides, each forming a segment of a circle. From thence you pass a small cave; above which the pillars, now grown a little larger, are inclining in all directions. In one place, in particular, a small mass of them very much resembles the ribs of a ship. From hence, having passed the cave, which, if it is not low water, you must do in a boat, you come to the first ranges of pillars, which are still not above half as large as those a little beyond. Over against this place is a small island, called in Erse *Boo-sha-la*, or more properly *Buachaille*, or "the Herdsman," separated from the main by a channel not many fathoms wide. This whole island is composed of pillars without any stratum above them. They are still small; but by much the neatest formed of any about the place. The first division of the island, for at high water it is divided into two,

makes a kind of a cone, the pillars converging together towards the centre. On the other they are in general laid down flat; and in the front next to the main, you see how beautifully they are packed together; their ends coming out square with the bank which they form. All these have their transverse sections exact, and their surfaces smooth, which is by no means the case with the large ones, which are cracked in all directions. I much question, however, if any one of this whole island of Buachaille is two feet in diameter. The main island opposed to Boo-sha-la, and farther towards the north-west, is supported by ranges of pillars pretty erect; and though not tall (as they are not uncovered to the base), of large diameters; and at their feet is an irregular pavement, made by the upper sides of such as have been broken off, which extends as far under water as the eye can reach. Here the forms of the pillars are apparent. These are of three, four, five, six, and seven sides; but the numbers of five and six are by much the most prevalent. The largest I measured was of seven. It was four feet five inches in diameter. I shall give the measurement of its sides, and those of some other forms which I met with. Staffa.

No. I. Four sides.
Diam. 1 foot 5 inches.

	Feet.	In.
First side	1	5
Second	1	1
Third	1	6
Fourth	1	1

No. II. Five sides.
Diam. 2 feet 10 inches.

	Feet.	In.
First side	1	10
Second	1	10
Third	1	5
Fourth	1	7½
Fifth	1	8

Staffa.

No. III. Six sides. Diam. 3 feet 6 inches.	Feet.	In.
First	0	10
Second	2	2
Third	2	2
Fourth	1	11
Fifth	2	2
Sixth	2	9

No. IV. Seven sides. Diam. 4 feet 5 inches.	Feet.	In.
First side	2	10
Second	2	4
Third	1	10
Fourth	2	8
Fifth	1	1
Sixth	1	6
Seventh	1	3

"The surfaces of these large pillars, in general, are rough and uneven, full of cracks in all directions. The transverse figures in the upright ones never fail to run in their true directions. The surfaces upon which we walked were often flat, having neither concavity nor convexity. The larger number, however, were concave, though some were very evidently convex. In some places the interstices within the perpendicular figures were filled up with a yellow spar. In one place a vein passed in among the mass of pillars, carrying here and there small threads of spar. Though they were broken and cracked through and through in all directions, yet their perpendicular figures might easily be traced. From whence it is easy to infer, that whatever the accident might have been that caused the dislocation, it happened after the formation of the pillars. From hence, proceeding along shore, you arrive at Fingal's Cave. Its dimensions, though I have given, I shall here again repeat in the form of a table.

	Feet.	Inches
Length of the cave from the rock without	371	6
From the pitch of the arch	250	0
Breadth of ditto at the mouth	53	7
At the farther end	20	0

	Feet.	Inches.	Staffs.
Height of the arch at the mouth	117	6	
At the end	70	0	
Height of an outside pillar	39	6	
Of one at the north-west corner	54	0	
Depth of water at the mouth	18	0	
At the bottom	9	0	

The cave runs into the rock in the direction of north-east by east by the compass. Proceeding farther to the north-west you meet with the highest ranges of pillars, the magnificent appearance of which is past all description. Here they are bare to their very basis, and the stratum below them is also visible. In a short time it rises many feet above the water, and gives an opportunity of examining its quality. Its surface rough, and has often large lumps of stone sticking in it, as if half immersed. Itself, when broken, is composed of a thousand heterogeneous parts, which together have very much the appearance of a lava; and the more so as many of the lumps appear to be of the very same stone of which the pillars are formed. This whole stratum lies in an inclined position, dipping gradually towards the south-east. As hereabouts is the situation of the highest pillars, I shall mention my measurements of them and the different strata in this place, premising that the measurements were made with a line, held in the hand of a person who stood at the top of the cliff, and reaching to the bottom, to the lower end of which was tied a white mark, which was observed by one who staid below for the purpose. When this mark was set off from the water, the person below noted it down, and made signal to him above, who made then a mark in his rope. Whenever this mark passed a notable place, the same signal was made, and the name of the place noted down as before. The line being all hauled up, and the distances between

Staffa. the marks measured and noted down, gave, when compared with the book kept below, the distances, as for instance, in the cave:

"No. 1. in the book below, was called from the water to the foot of the first pillar, in the book above; No. 1. gave thirty-six feet eight inches, the highest of that ascent, which was composed of broken pillars.

No. I. *Pillar at the west corner of Fingal's Cave.*

	Feet.	Inches.
1. From the water to the foot of the pillar.....	12	10
2. Height of the pillar.....	37	3
3. Stratum above the pillar.....	66	9

No. II. *Fingal's Cave.*

	Feet.	Inches.
1. From the water to the foot of the pillar.....	36	8
2. Height of the pillar.....	39	6
3. From the top of the pillar to the top of the arch.....	31	4
4. Thickness of the stratum above.....	34	4
By adding together the three first measurements, we get the height of the arch from the water.....	117	6

No. III. *Corner Pillar to the westward of Fingal's Cave.*

	Feet.	Inches.
Stratum below the pillar of lava-like matter.....	11	0
Length of pillar.....	54	0
Stratum above the pillar.....	61	6

No. 4. *Another Pillar to the westward.*

	Feet.	Inches.
Stratum below the pillar.....	17	1
Height of the pillar.....	50	0
Stratum above.....	51	1

No. 5. *Another Pillar farther to the westward.* Staffa.

	Feet.	Inches.
Stratum below the pillar.....	19	8
Height of the pillar.....	55	1
Stratum above.....	54	7

The stratum above the pillars which is here mentioned is uniformly the same, consisting of numberless small pillars, bending and inclining in all directions; sometimes so irregularly, that the stones can only be said to have an inclination to assume a columnal form; in others more regular, but never breaking into or disturbing the stratum of large pillars, whose tops every where keep an uniform and irregular line. Proceeding now along shore, round the north end of the island, you arrive at *Oua-na-Scarve*, or the "Corvorant's Cave." Here the stratum under the pillars is lifted up very high; the pillars above it are considerably less than those at the north-west end of the island, but still very considerable. Beyond is a bay which cuts deep into the island, rendering it in that place not more than a quarter of a mile over. On the sides of this bay, especially beyond a little valley, which almost cuts the island into two, are two stages of pillars, but small; however having a stratum between them exactly the same as that above them, formed of innumerable little pillars, shaken out of their places, and leaning in all directions. Having passed this bay, the pillars totally cease. The rock is of a dark brown stone; and no signs of regularity occur till you have passed round the south-east end of the island (a space almost as large as that occupied by the pillars), which you meet again on the west side, beginning to form themselves irregularly, as if the stratum had an inclination to that form, and soon arrive at the bending pillars where I began. The stone of which

Staffa. the pillars are formed is a coarse kind of basaltes, very much resembling the Giant's Causeway in Ireland."

We have given this account from Sir Joseph Banks, chiefly on account of the correct measurements of the basaltic columns; to take which must have been a work of much trouble and difficulty. It may be added, that on the north side of Staffa is a large cavern; and that when the waves of the surrounding ocean are agitated and dash themselves against this part of the rock, the approaching wave fills the cavern, and at the same time compresses the air within, which, by the force of its spring or recoil, again forces out the water in white froth or smoke, with a report similar to the firing of cannon, which is heard at a great distance. It may be remarked, also, that the sea, during winter, rushing into the caverns which penetrate the island, shakes the whole mass to its foundation. Some poor people that resided there one winter to take care of the cattle, were so terrified by the rocking of their miserable hut in tempestuous weather, that they seized the first opportunity of forsaking the island, believing that the strange concussions which they felt could proceed from nothing but the rage of an evil spirit. The Cave of Fingal is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent objects which the eye can behold; consisting, as it does, of a massy roof of enormous weight resting on the tops of regular columns. The roof consists of fragments of pillars, the shafts of which have been washed away by the ocean. The fragments are cemented by calcareous matter; which, when contrasted with the dark purple hexagons formed by the ends of pillars, gives the whole the appearance of Mosaic work. Between the upright pillars is often found a cement, generally of a beautiful white colour, interspersed with rhomboidal and prismatic crystals, which are sometimes tinged with green. This sub-

stance is in general calcareous spar (crystallized carbonate of lime). In some instances, however, the space is filled up with infiltrations of beautiful white granite. In the very midst of the basaltic pillars, when broken, are to be found pieces of radiated zeolite. At the farther extremity of the Cave of Fingal is a small cave, which from certain passages sends forth an agreeable noise; hence it has received the name of *An-va-Vine*, or the "Melodious Cave." Staffa

Dr Uno Van Troil, the learned Bishop of Linckœpeng, who visited Staffa along with Sir Joseph Banks, in his Letters on Iceland, gives the following animated account of this cave: "How magnificent are the remains we have of the porticos of the ancients! and with what admiration do we behold the colonnades which adorn the principal buildings of our times! And yet, every one who compares them with Fingal's Cave, formed by Nature in the Island of Staffa, must readily acknowledge that this piece of Nature's architecture far surpasses every thing that invention, luxury, and taste, ever produced among the Greeks."

"This superb monument," says M. de St Fond, "of a grand subterraneous combustion, the date of which has been lost in the lapse of ages, presents an appearance of order and regularity so wonderful, that it is difficult for the coldest observer, and one the least sensible to the phenomena which relate to the convulsions of the globe, not to be singularly astonished by this prodigy, which may be considered as a sort of natural palace. I (adds he) have seen many ancient volcanos, and I have given descriptions of several superb basaltic causeways and delightful caverns in the midst of lavas, but I have never found any thing which comes near to this, or can bear any comparison with it, for the admirable regularity of the columns, the height

Staffa. of the arch, the situation, the form, the elegance of this production of nature, or its resemblance to the masterpieces of art, though this has had no share in its construction. It is therefore not at all surprising that tradition should have made it the abode of a hero."

Staffa is nearly in the same degree of longitude with the Giant's Causeway in the north of Ireland, but a large tract of ocean intervenes betwixt them, together with the western points of the islands of Mull and Ilay. The opinions of the native Irish concerning the Giant's Causeway were by no means unnatural. They saw a regular mole going into the sea, formed of hexagonal pillars, which had every appearance of art. The only obstacle which they perceived was the insufficiency of human strength for a work of such magnitude. This difficulty, however, was soon overcome, and the celebrated hero *Fion Mac-Coul*, the Fingal of Scotland, became the giant under whose forming and directing hand this singular structure was erected. As similar pillars were known to exist on the west coast of Scotland, particularly on the coast of Mull, it was not unnatural to think, as they knew little of latitude or longitude, that this mole, which loses itself in the sea, was once continued across the channel, connecting the Irish and British coasts together; and that by means of it Fingal and his attendants had ready access from one island to the other.

It is now generally agreed by speculative naturalists, that these basaltic rocks must once have constituted lava or melted matter, such as flows from a volcano; and that the regularity of form is the result of a process of crystallization, in the same manner as when sugar dissolved in water is boiled to a certain strength, and being suffered to cool slowly assumes the form of the crystals called sugar candy. Mr Howal observes, that all along the eastern side

of mount Etna the soil is broken, but filled with beautiful varieties of basaltes. Indeed, according to this author, there is no volcano in Europe so rich as Etna in basaltes, nor where so many curious figures of it are to be seen. Sir William Hamilton has mentioned basaltes which have been thrown up during an eruption of Vesuvius; and Faliasi has given a view of an extinguished volcano with pillars in the crater. Icolumkill.

At the southern termination of the great bay formed by the crooked figure of the western side of the Island of Mull, at the distance of about three leagues from Staffa, is the celebrated sacred island which is known under three names; viz. Hii or I (pronounced *ee*), Iona, and Icolumkill. The Druids undoubtedly possessed I before the introduction of Christianity. A green eminence, close to the Sound of I, is to this day called the Druids burial-place. A cottager, some years ago, planting potatoes in this spot, and digging earth to cover them, brought up some bones, which the people of the island immediately concluded to be the bones of the Druids. The tradition is, that the first Christians banished the Druids and took possession of their seat. It may be observed that Bede calls this island Hii; and *I*, in Gaelic (pronounced *ee*), signifies "an island;" which name this sacred isle, by way of eminence, receives to this day. In monkish writers it is called *Iona*, which signifies the "Island of Waves." In more modern times it was called *I-Colum-kill*; that is, the "Island of Colum-kill," in honour of Columba. The name Iona is now quite lost in the country; and it is always called I, except when the speaker would wish to lay an emphasis upon the word, and then it is called Icolumkill. Icolumkill

According to Bede, St Columba came to Britain to preach the gospel to the northern Picts in the year 565, in the reign of Eugen the Third; and having succeeded in St Columba.

Icolumkill. his purpose, the Picts granted him this island, from which, Bede says, they were separated only by a narrow arm of the sea. In passing, we may observe, that if there be any truth in this remark, concerning the Picts possessing the Island of Mull and the Hebrides, important historical conclusions will thence arise. It will follow, that the Orkney and Shetland Isles, together with the Hebrides and the east and west coast of Scotland, were originally inhabited by the same people, who were probably of Scandinavian or Norwegian descent; that the Duns of the west coast and islands, and the Picts houses of the east and north, which are precisely similar buildings, did actually belong to the same Scandinavian race of people, usually called Picts; and that the Gael or Celts, now called Highlanders, were in those times confined to the interior mountains of the north of Scotland. The Picts, both of the north and the west, were afterwards subdued by a new Danish or Norwegian invasion under Harold Harfager; but it would appear that the Gael or Highlanders ultimately subdued the western Picts and Danes, and gave their language to the western coasts and isles, but were unable to do so to the eastern coasts and northern isles, where the Picts formed a large body of people. These ideas are confirmed by the important fact mentioned by Adamnan, abbot of Iona, and one of the earliest successors of St Columba, that in his time the inhabitants of the western coasts and isles used pork as a common article of food, which we have said the Gael are only at present beginning to do.

As soon as Columba got possession of Iona he founded a cell of monks; borrowing his institutions, it is supposed, from one of the oriental monastic orders. It is said that the first religious were canons regular, of whom the founder was the first abbot; and that his monks, till the year 716, differed from those of the church of Rome, both in the observation of Easter and in the clerical ton-

sure. It may be remarked, that the first Christian clergy of Scotland were denominated Culdees. They were monks, and their monasteries were a sort of seminaries, which sent out bishops and priests, according to their discretion, to reside in different districts. The priests sent out by them appear to have affected a retired mode of life, and their residence was called a kill, *cuil*, or cell; and hence the names of a vast multitude of parishes in Scotland begin with the syllable *kill*, as will be obvious from turning to the population tables, especially of the western counties. The see of Rome, at a future period, prevailed with the Scottish clergy, or Culdees, to submit themselves to its authority; as by so doing they no doubt acquired additional importance, becoming, under one head, a part of the great ecclesiastical hierarchy which for ages contrived, in a great degree, to rule over Europe. Icolumkill.

Columba led in Iona a very exemplary life, and was greatly respected for the sanctity of his manners. At length, in the seventy-seventh year of his age, he died in the arms of his disciples, and was interred in this island; though the Irish contend that his remains were removed to Down, and deposited between those of St Patrick and St Bridget. This, however, is denied by the natives of I, who still point out his grave. The religious establishments in this island continued in the unmolested exercise of their duties for two centuries; but in the year 807, they were attacked by the Danes, who with their usual barbarity slew part of the monks, and forced the remainder, with Collach their abbot, to seek safety by flight. The monastery remained depopulated for several years; but on the retreat of the Danes received a new order, the Cluniacs, who continued there till the dissolution of monastic institutions, when the revenues were united to the see of Argyle, and on the abolition of episcopacy became the property of the Duke.

Icolumkill. In this isle were two monasteries; one for monks and another for nuns. In the court of the cathedral are two
Cathedral. crosses; one called St Martin's, which is very elegant, and formed of one piece of red granite fourteen feet high; the other, called St John's Cross, is much broken. The cathedral has a very handsome choir in the middle, with two side aisles, the whole forming a cross. The tower, which is three stories high, is supported by four arches adorned with figures in *basso relievo*. These arches are supported by pillars about ten feet high, and eight and a half in circumference. The capitals of these pillars are ornamented with several grotesque figures, among which is an angel with a pair of scales weighing souls, and the Devil keeping down the scale in which the standard is with his paw. The tower is ascended by a narrow winding stair; is almost entire; and some of the roof timbers are still remaining. Within these few years a part of the east end of the transverse fell down. The length of the cathedral from east to west is thirty-eight yards, the breadth eight, and the length of the transept about twenty-four yards. The large east window has been a beautiful specimen of the Gothic style; but its light and elegant workmanship is much injured. One thing remarkable in this building is, that the windows are almost all of different forms, and in different styles of architecture. In the upper part of the tower is a circular window of peculiar construction, and so well contrived as to admit abundance of light, yet exclude the winds and rain; so that it probably served the purpose of a ventilator to the building as well as a window. At the upper end of the chancel formerly stood a large table or altar of white marble, reaching from one side of the chancel to the other, which is eight yards. If this be true, the marble slab must have been the largest ever found in this country. But Mr Pennant, on the autho-

rity of Sacheverel, who saw it when almost entire, says that the size of it was six feet by four inches, which is much more probable. This altar was brought from a quarry near the church of Strath, in the Isle of Sky. Of this altar there are now no remains. The common opinion was, that a fragment of this stone was a defence against shipwrecks, fire, and miscarriages, and ensured to the possessor success in whatever he undertook. Hence we need not be surprised that the inhabitants of this island should each secure a bit of it, or that they sent fragments of it to their friends in distant parts. It was likewise sold to strangers who visited the island, and who were anxious to poseess a piece of so valuable a relic. Mr Pennant says, that at the time when he visited the island a very small portion was only left, and even that he contributed to diminish. In the museum of Anderson's Institution in Glasgow is a good specimen of this altar, brought from Icolumkill by the founder. It is a granulated marble of a pure white. Very near the place where this altar stood, on the north side of the choir, is a tombstone of black marble, quite entire, on which is a very fine recumbent figure of the abbot Macfingen, as large as life, in his sacred robes, with a crosier in one hand, and the other lifted up to his chin, elbowing two lions at one end, and spurning two at the other. This elegant tombstone is supported by four pedestals about a foot high, and round the margin is this inscription: Icolumkill.

+ Hic + Jacet + Johannes Macfingen Abbas De. Jj + Qui Obiit Anno M. D. Cujus Anima propicietur Altissimus. Amen.

Just opposite to this tomb, on the other side, is one of freestone, executed in the same manner. This is the tombstone of Abbot Kenneth, but is much defaced. On the floor is the figure of an armed knight, rudely sculptured, with an animal sprawling at his feet. On the right

Icolumkill. of the cathedral, but contiguous to it, are the remains of the college. Some of the cloisters are still visible; and the common-hall is nearly entire, containing stone seats in niches for the disputants. The styles of architecture in this cathedral are different; the arches of one part being circular segments, which is the Saxon or Roman, and the others pointed or Gothic. This, however, is the case with many other abbeys and cathedrals.

At a small distance from the church is a spot, under which lie concealed the black stones upon which the old Highland chieftains, when they made contracts and alliances, used to take the oath; which was considered as more sacred than any other obligation, and could not be violated without the blackest infamy. M'Donald, Lord of the Isles, delivered the rights of their lands to his vassals in the isles and on the mainland, with uplifted hands and bended knees, on the black stones; and in this posture, before many witnesses, solemnly swore that he would never recal the rights he then granted. So sacred was an oath sworn upon these stones, that it became proverbial, for a person who was certain of what he affirmed, to say, that he could make oath of it upon the black stones. The revenues of this monastery and cathedral were once very considerable. Donald Monro, Dean of the Isles, who visited many of them in the year 1549, says that several islands once belonged to it, as well as a considerable number of churches and chapels in Galway, with large estates annexed. These, it seems, were taken from them, and granted to the canons of Holyroodhouse about 1180. All the females who died in this island were buried in the nunnery, and all the males in or near the abbey. A little to the north of the cathedral are the remains of the bishop's house, with his grounds and garden still inclosed; from which it would seem that the bishops who re-

sided here were content with a moderate share of the good things of this life, the house being very small. Here resided the bishops of the isles, after the Isle of Man was separated from them and erected into a separate see. This event happened in the reign of Edward the First; previous to which their cathedral was in the Isle of Man: but afterwards the abbots of Icolumkill allowed them the use of their church. They formerly had the title of bishops of Sodor and Man; but on the erection of two separate sees, the bishops of Man retained the old title, which they still keep; and those of the other sees were called the Bishops of the Isles. The title of these prelates during the conjunction of Man and Sodor was first explained by Dr M'Pherson. It was before his time always supposed to be derived from Sodor, an imaginary town either in Man or Icolumkill. During the time that the Norwegians, and afterwards the M'Donalds, possessed the isles, they divided them, as formerly noticed, into two parts: the northern, which comprehended all that lay to the north of the Point of Ardnamurchan, were called *Nordereys*, from *norder*, north, and *i* or *ey*, an island; and the *Sudereys* include those that lay to the south of that promontory. But as the Sudereys formed the most important division, it had the honour of giving the name to the bishoprick; and the Isle of Man retained both titles after the separation, as the King of England retains that of the King of France. Icolumkill.

Very near the cathedral is a cell, said to be the burial-place of St Columba; and just within the great entry into the church the bason for holy water still remains entire. A little to the south of the cathedral is a small chapel, pretty entire, called Oran's Chapel, which is said to be the first building attempted on the island by Columba; but that, by the machinations of some evil spirit, the walls tumbled down as fast as they were built up. Columba Oran's Chapel.

Icolumkill. on this betook himself to prayer in a retired part of the island, and was told by an angel that the building would never be completed till a human victim was buried alive. His friend and companion Oran generously offered himself as a victim, and was interred accordingly. After three days, Columba wished to take a farewel look at his old friend, and ordered the earth and stones to be removed from the tomb; when, to the astonishment of all present, Oran started up, and began to reveal "the secrets of his prison-house," telling many strange things; in particular, that hell was only a creature of the priests, and that no such place existed. The politic Columba immediately ordered the earth to be flung in again; poor Oran was overwhelmed, and an end effectually put to his prating. In Oran's Chapel are several tombstones; and among them one with much carved work, but without any inscription, which is pointed out as the burial-place of Oran. In a small inclosure, near the south end of the chapel, lie the remains of Lachlan Macfingen, father of John the abbot. Over his grave is placed a plain black stone, with the following inscription in the old British character. "Hæc est crux Lauchlani Macfingen, et ejus filij Johannis Abbatis de Ij, facta anno Dom. CCCCLXXXIX." West from this, at a small distance, lies a stone, much impaired by time, with an inscription in the same character, but rude, and seemingly more ancient, without any date. This is the burial-place of Angus M'Donald of Cantyre and Isla, of whose wars a long detail is given in the work called the "Feuds of the Clans." The inscription is as follows: "Hic jacet Angusius, filius Angusii Maie Domlinaat Dominii et Ila."

On the south side of the chapel is the grave-stone of Ailean-Nair-Lop-a-Ceatharnarch, chief of a family of the clan of M'Lean, from whom is descended the laird of

Torloisk. On this stone is the figure of a ship under sail, a standard, four lions, and a tree. In this chapel is likewise the tomb of a M'Lean of Lochbuy, grasping a pistol in his right hand, and in his left a sword. A Maclean of Coll likewise lies buried here; the effigy is in armour, with a sword in his left hand. Very near the tomb of Angus M'Donald lies his enemy and persecutor the ambitious M'Lean of Duart; the effigy likewise in armour, bearing a shield and a two-handed sword. South of the chapel is an inclosure containing a great number of stones, but so overgrown with weeds that few of the inscriptions are legible. In this inclosure lie the remains of forty-eight Scottish kings, four kings of Ireland, eight Norwegian monarchs, and one king of France, who were ambitious of reposing in this holy ground, where they would not mix with vulgar dust. There was likewise another, and probably a greater inducement to prefer this place as the receptacle of their remains, *viz.* a belief in the following ancient prophecy, translated, or rather imitated from the Erse:

Icolumkill.

Royal sepulchres.

Seven years before that awful day,
When time shall be no more,
A watery deluge will o'er sweep
Hibernia's mossy shore:
The green-clad Isla too shall sink,
While, with the great and good,
Columba's happy isle will rear
Her tow'rs above the flood.

Besides these tombs, where the bones of monarchs have probably long since mouldered away, in the same sanctuary, but at a respectful distance, lie most of the Lords of the Isles. The tomb-stones are very numerous, but scarcely any of them have any legible characters. Many of them most probably cover the remains of men.

Icolumkill. who, as Dr Johnson observes, did not expect to be so soon forgotten. An inscription upon one tomb, however, explains that it was erected to the memory of John Beaton of the clan M'Lean, a physician, who died on the 19th of November 1657, in the sixty-third year of his age.

Nunnery. The ruins of the nunnery are also to be seen. There is a very large court, which undoubtedly contained habitations for the nuns; but nothing remains except the walls. The nunnery church, excepting a part of the roof, is entire. This church is fifty-eight feet long and twenty broad. The late Duke of Argyle ordered a door to be placed on it with a lock; but the natives have forced the lock, and use it as a stable for their cattle during the night. The floor of the church is covered thick with cow-dung, excepting the eastern end, which Mr Pennant caused to be cleared, and where the tomb of the last prioress is discernible, though much defaced. Her figure is carved in *alto relievo* on the face of a black marble stone. An angel is seen on each side, and above them is a comb and a small plate. These figures occupy one-half the stone. On the other half is represented the Virgin Mary with a mitre on her head, and the infant in her arms; and above her are figures of the sun and moon. At her feet, between the two figures, is this address, supposed from the prioress, "Sancta Maria, ora pro me;" and round the stone, in old British characters, is the following inscription: "Hic jacet Domina Anna Donaldo Firleti Filia, quondam Prioressa de Iona, quæ obiit Anno M. D. XImo. cujus Animam Abrahamo commendamus".

There are some other monuments on the floor; but they are so effaced that scarcely any thing can be made out. The roof over the eastern end of this chapel re-

mains entire, consisting of four arches meeting at the top. The intervals are filled up with thin stones placed edgewise, forming a very handsome vault or canopy. The architecture of the nunnery, which is in the Saxon style, has by no means been bad. This nunnery was filled with canonesses of St Augustine, and dedicated to St Oran, the friend of Columba. Though these nuns were permitted to live in community for a considerable time after the reformation, yet it was not for many years after Columba came to I, that he allowed them or any other women to settle in that island, for he was no friend to the fair sex; but, on the contrary, is said to have held them in such abhorrence, that he detested cattle on their account, and would not permit a cow to come near his sacred walls, because "*s far am be bo, bi'dh bean 's far am, b'i bean, bi'dh mallacha;*" "where there is a cow there must be a woman, and where there is a woman there must be mischief." Icolumkill.

The nuns for some time lived in a small island near I, which is still called the Island of Nuns; but the abbots who succeeded Columba, not being so unrelenting, allowed them to be established in the island, where they wore a white gown and a rochet of fine linen. On the north side of the nunnery chapel, to the northward of this building, is a causeway leading to the cathedral, called the Main Street. It is joined by two others: One of them is called the Royal Street, and the other Martyr Street, leading to the Bay of Martyrs. On the west side of it is an elegant cross, called M'Lean's Cross, being one of a great number (Mr Pennant says 360) that were standing in this island at the reformation, but which were soon after demolished by order of a provincial assembly held in this island. These crosses were probably erected in consequence of vows, or perhaps as monuments, with a vain

Icolumkill

hope, as is observed by the above mentioned writer, of perpetuating the memory of the founders.

Rank of the abbots of I.

It is a singular fact in ecclesiastical history, that the abbots of Icolumkill maintained a jurisdiction, not only over all the other monasteries that branched from this, but over all the monks of this abbey that exercised the function of priest, or even of bishop, in other places. Pennant remarks, that Bede speaks of this singular pre-eminence, and says that the island always had for a governor an abbot presbyter, whose power (by a very uncommon rule), not only every province, but even the bishops themselves, obeyed. From this account the enemies to episcopacy have inferred, that the rank of bishop was a novelty introduced into the church in corrupt times; and the authority they assumed was an arrant usurpation, since a simple abbot and presbyter, for so considerable a space, was permitted to have the superiority. In answer to this, Archbishop Usher advances, that the power of the Abbot of Iona was only local, and extended only to the bishop who resided there; for after the conquest of the Isle of Man by the English, and the division of the see after that event, the Bishop of the Isles made Iona his residence, which before was in Man. But notwithstanding this, the venerable Bede seems to be a stronger authority than the Ulster Annals, quoted by the archbishop, which pretend no more than that a bishop had always resided in Iona, without even an attempt to refute the positive assertion of the most respectable author we have, relating to church matters, in those primitive times. The truth seems to be, that Iona was a great Culdee seminary, which educated and sent out priests and bishops to a great variety of quarters; and thus its abbot or president, tho' himself only a priest or presbyter, had a very extensive ecclesiatical jurisdiction. When this great western semi-

nary united itself to the see of Rome, the pope and his agents would be willing to accept, in the first instance, of the nominal subjection of this remote establishment: and thus the abbots and monks of Icolumkill, considered as an university, retained their patronage of bishopricks and numerous parishes; and an anomalous establishment was created, by which a simple presbyter or priest had jurisdiction over bishops and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. Icolumkill.

St Columba is said by the natives to have foretold the profanation of his retreat, and that it would one day be restored to all its splendour, in the following verse;

An I mo cridhe, I mo graidh
An aite guth mamaich bidh geum ba;
Ach rmun tig an saoghal gu crich
Bithidh I mar a bha.

O sacred dome and my belov'd abode!
Whose walls now echo to the praise of God,
The time shall come when lauding monks shall cease,
And lowing herds here occupy their place;
But better ages shall thereafter come;
And praise re-echo in this sacred dome.

The view of I from the east is very picturesque: An extent of flat ground, little elevated above the water, covered with the remains of Threld village, still inhabited, and with the sacred buildings. Beyond these the island rises into rocky little hills, with narrow verdant hollows between. The west side is bold and rocky, and the whole is a singular combination of rudeness and fertility. The soil is a mixture of sand and minute particles of sea shells, mixed with black fertile mould, favourable to the growth of white clover, crow's foot, and daisies. Bear, flax, and potatoes succeed well.

We come next to the large Island of Mull. It is separated from Morven, on the continent of Argyleshire, by a Mull.

Mull. long narrow channel, called the Sound of Mull; and from the more southern parts of that county, by the great bay which forms the entrance from the south to the Linnhe Loch, and the great Caledonian Canal across the island from Fort William to Inverness. The southern side of Mull runs due east and west. Its western side, as formerly mentioned, is encroached upon by a great bay, in which lie the islands already mentioned. This great bay divides itself into two lesser bays or lochs, which run far into the country; the northern, being called Loch-nan-gaul, and the southern Loch Scriden, or Loch Leven. In different quarters the land is also indented by a variety of bays, such as Lochbuy on the south, Lochspelve and Lochdon on the east; and north of these the Bay of Dowart, Macalister's Bay, Loch Mingary, and Loch Achune. The shores, for the most part, bold and rocky, but not without many openings and flats; in several of which are found banks of shells crumbled into sand, which being spread on the soil produce daisies and white clover, by destroying the moss with which it was formerly covered.

General aspect. The general aspect of the country is rugged and mountainous. The island is about twenty-four miles in length from east to west, and nearly of an equal breadth from north to south; but, as already mentioned, it must not be considered as equivalent to a square of that extent, being so deeply encroached on by the sea on its western side. It has still the remains of ancient woods, the greater part of which have been gradually cut down. Some of the mountains form excellent sheep walks; and that sort of stock has now become the favourite one in the island; but a very great part of the territory is very poor, exhibiting nothing but crags, heath, and swampy morasses. Some mountains rise to a considerable height. From the top of

the mountain called *Bien More*, or the "Great Mountain," most of the western isles may, with a clear sky, be seen at one view, as distinctly as if they were laid down upon a sheet of paper. *Bientalindh*, also, or "Prospect Mountain," as the word seems to import, commands a very extensive view on all sides, and sailors give it the name of the Sugar Loaf. Mull.

On account of the rugged, hilly, and broken nature of the territory, agriculture cannot be carried on to a great extent, and is only employed on the small strips of land near the coast. Although the sheep-farming has been introduced, yet great numbers of black cattle are annually reared and exported, for which this country is very well adapted: and indeed it is chiefly from the sale of these that the peasantry make up their rents, which are now paid in specie. In general, however, the lands are let so high, that many of the small tenants cannot, with all their care, make up their rents by the sale of cattle. They are therefore obliged, after they have tilled their little arable ground, to leave their families, and go to some of the southern districts, where they can be employed in making canals, or to some quarter where they can make kelp. In this way they contrive to save a little money, with which they return home before the time of their harvest. There are scarcely any inclosures in this island; and as every family cultivates a little oats, barley, and flax, they are obliged to employ herds to tend their cattle wherever they feed, to prevent their eating up the crops, or encroaching on the farms of their neighbours. The want of inclosures takes a number of hands from active employments, and at the same time gives to the herds habits of extreme indolence. The principal part of their occupation consists in sitting upon a bank, and occasionally sending their dogs when the cattle are going astray. These docile Culture.

Mull. and faithful animals save them all the labour. The common people are prevented from deserting this miserable sort of existence by an attachment to their native soil; and some proprietors, and even great tacksmen who have long leases, are induced to persevere in the old unprofitable mode of overstocking their lands with people, in consequence of the wars in which the British empire has recently been engaged, which enable those persons, who can easily raise considerable bodies of troops, to recommend themselves greatly to Government, and to derive considerable benefit from the recruiting service. From all this it follows that agriculture is here in a very low state; and though it is capable of improvement, it cannot probably be carried to the extent of supplying the inhabitants with corn. The arable land, as was before observed, lies for the most part near the shore. The soil, even there, is in general but barren, being a light reddish earth mixed with moss, of very little depth, and very much under water. The spots which deserve a more favourable description are in proportion very few. The common crop is a very inferior kind of oats, which the inhabitants call small oats. They are sown about the end of March; and it is generally October, and sometimes November, before they are ripe. The common return is three seeds, and so light, that two bolls of oats only make one of meal. Barley is sown about the end of April, and is ripe about the end of August. It generally returns from six to ten seeds; and when sown on old ground manured with sea-ware, it sometimes produces sixteenfold. This, however, is very rare. The greatest part of the barley is made into whisky, which is much too commonly used in the Highlands. The late acts, obliging distillers to take out a licence, have undoubtedly diminished the number of stills in the Highlands; yet in most of the sequestered glens, each indivi-

dual distils his own spirit, without any fear of detection from the officers of the revenue. Mull.

The sea-ware and shell-sand, which are used as manure, are carried to the fields on the backs of horses in baskets or creels. The plough commonly made use of in this island is very rude, and is probably the same that has been used for centuries back. It is drawn by four horses abreast. They seem to use it because they are not acquainted with a better. There are no ploughmakers; so that each farmer is obliged to make his own, which he does in the manner of his forefathers. As few proprietors in the Highlands grant leases to their small tenants, it is impossible to expect any improvement from the latter.

The common language of Mull is the Gaelic, though several can speak English; and were the schools properly encouraged, this language would gain ground fast; but they are, for the most part, ill managed and ill attended. Indeed, the encouragement given to schoolmasters, not only here but in the greatest part of the Highlands, is insufficient to induce persons properly qualified to undertake this useful office. In general, the common labourers are better paid, and better able to support a family, than the schoolmaster.

There are two stated ferries in the island; one to Morven, and the other from Auchnacraig to Kerrera, and thence to the mainland near Oban. By this last near 2000 black cattle are annually wafted over for the several markets to which they are driven, besides a considerable number of horses: but in this number are included the black cattle from the isles of Coll and Tiree, which are driven through Mull in their way to the low country.

The only mansion of note in the island is Torloigh, the residence of Mr M'Lean, who is proprietor of a large pro- Antiquities.

Mull. portion of the island. A considerable part also belongs to the Duke of Argyle, whose factor has a neat residence in the neighbourhood of Aros. Upon a bold headland projecting into the sea is situated the old Castle Duart, or Dowart, formerly the seat of the M'Leans, when they were proprietors of the whole island. It is now in ruins; though some parts of it are so far habitable as to afford accommodation to a small party of soldiers detached from the garrison of Fort William to repress smugglers. At Aros are the ruins of another old castle, also built on a steep rock by the sea, and secured on the landside by a moat and drawbridge. It is said to have been long the residence of the M'Donalds, Lords of the Isles.

Minerals. The mineralogy of the island is in many respects worthy of attention. A great part of it lies on a mass of whinstone, only different from basaltes in the coarseness of its grain. In many places the rocks are basaltic, and often assume a regular columnar form. Near Aros there are some rocks of white lava, a rare mineral, and seemingly like to that described by M. Dolomieu in his "Memoires sur l'Isle de Ponces." Limestone abounds, some of which partakes of the nature of marble. Some seams of coal have been found in different parts. There is one three feet thick in the hill of Bien-Anini, the property of Sir James Riddel; which, however, it has never been found practicable to work to advantage. The quality of the coal, however, is good. A seam about eighteen inches thick has been found in the parish of Kilfinichen, the property of the Duke of Argyle; and the same mineral has also been discovered on the estate of Brolass, the property of Captain M'Lean of Kenlochleven. In one place there is a stratum of coal under basaltes, and in another basaltes incumbent on that mineral; perhaps the only instance of the kind in the world. These, however, must be consi-

dered rather as objects of curiosity in the science of mi- Mull.
neralogy than of practical utility. It is so totally inconsistent with experience, that a territory consisting chiefly of whinstone should contain an uninterrupted stratum of coal to any great extent, that there is little reason to expect great benefit from the specimens of that mineral found in this quarter. In the mountain of Ben-Enich a singular mineral substance is said to have been discovered; viz. a *zeolite*, or compound silicious spar impregnated with petroleum. Sandstone and granite, of a fine quality, are abundant; and pebbles, of great variety and beauty, are found on the shores. At Balphetrish is the famous Ring- Ringing Stone.
ing Stone; the dimensions are, seven feet long by six broad, and four feet and a half thick. It is of a dull grey colour, spotted with stars of black mica, and totally different from the surrounding rocks. It is so hard that it is impossible with a common hammer to break off the smallest bit; and when struck with a stone or hammer, it yields a sound like brass or cast iron. The mineral properties of this curious stone have not yet been investigated. As connected in some degree with the mineralogy of this rude and broken territory, we may remark, that in many places it is formed into caverns of considerable size. Of these, in the district called Airdmeanach, two Caverns.
deserve notice; one is called Ladder Cave. There is a passage to this cave of about eighty feet open above, and where two men may walk abreast. A breast-work is built at the entrance of the cave as a defence. To this breast-work a ladder is standing for people to get over it to the cave; from which circumstance it took its name. Within the cave there is room for about eighty men. Here is a large flag, which is said to be used as a table, and some other conveniencies. In this cave, tradition says, people took shelter in times of trouble. The other, called M'Kin-

Mull. nen's cave, is in Airdmeanach, and is still much more capacious than the Ladder Cave. It took its name, as tradition goes, from a gentleman of the name of M'Kinnen going in to search for the bottom, which was then thought impossible to find, as the cave was supposed to go quite across the country. M'Kinnen went in, and was never heard of again. It has, however, been explored in later times; so that if there be any truth in the story of M'Kinnen, he must have been killed by persons who had taken shelter there, and considered him as a dangerous spy or intruder. There is a cave in Inimor called the Nun's Cave.

Tobermoray. The only village worthy of notice in this island is Tobermoray, on the northern part of the Sound of Mull. It was built by the British Society for the Encouragement of Fisheries. The situation of this village is excellent for a fishing station and seaport. It possesses a fine bay, sheltered from the ocean by the small Isle of Calve; and it is situated in the tract of the shipping which pass from the western parts of Britain to the northern countries of Europe, and has an easy communication by water with the fishing lochs in one direction, and with the Frith of Clyde, Liverpool, and other considerable towns, in the other. The Society began to form this village in 1788; and a custom-house and post-office were established here in 1791. The village consists of about twenty houses, built with stone and lime, and covered with slate, besides about thirty huts or thatched houses. A few persons follow the mercantile line, particularly the Stevensons of Oban, who have here established one of their warehouses. A boat-builder and cooper find constant employment in preparing for the herring-fishery. There is also a considerable store of salt kept here for supplying the busses and boats during the fishing seasons.

Eastward from Mull, in the mouth of the Linnhe Loch,

is the Island of Lismore, which is ten miles in length and from two to three in breadth. It was anciently the seat of the bishop of Argyle (who was from that circumstance frequently named *Episcopus Lismorensis*). The present church of Lismore is the chancel of the old cathedral, new-roofed about forty years ago, after lowering the old walls from ten to seven feet. The font and confessional chair remain. The walls of the Bishop's Castle still remain pretty entire, four miles to the west of the cathedral. It has a square open court within. There are several vestiges of fortified camps, and an old castle with a fosse and drawbridge, said to have been erected by the Danes. Within half a mile of the cathedral is one of the circular towers built without cement, so frequently to be met with in all the western isles and coasts, as well as in Orkney and Caithness, called Duns or Picts houses. The whole island seems to rest upon a bed of limestone. In the bottom of every marsh or lake is found marl from ten to sixteen feet deep. There is to be seen in the face of a limestone rock, seven or eight feet above the surface of the ground, and quite beyond the reach of tides, a seam, twelve or fifteen inches broad, of a concretion composed of all the varieties of shells to be found on these coasts, with now and then a small mixture of charcoal, as firm, and nearly as solid, as the rock surrounding it, to which it seems to be perfectly united and to make a part. Pieces of it have been carried to Edinburgh. Water running over the face of the limestone rock in this island generally dissolves the softer particles of it, and leaves the more solid parts in a variety of fanciful grotesque figures. The limestone rocks in Lismore lie all in one direction, in layers one above another, nearly from south-east to north-west. There are seams or spars, three or four feet broad, of remarkable hard flinty rocks or stones, running across

Lismore.

Minerals.

Lismore. the island, at the distance of a mile and a half or two miles. These seams appear in a direct line with those in Lismore, on the opposite coast of Morven, where there is no limestone. But of all the curiosities in this island, the most remarkable seem to be deer and perhaps elk horns, of great size, and cow horns of still a much greater size in proportion. The pith of one of the latter, though much shrivelled and withered, is twelve inches in circumference at the root. Tradition asserts, that this island was of old a deer forest; and the number of deer horns and a deer skeleton, found quite entire, confirms the assertion. It is said that the seventh most successful hunting chace which Fingal ever had was in this island; and the inhabitants pretend to point out *Sha-nan-ban-Fiown*, the "hill or eminence of the Fingalian fair ladies," on which they sat to view the diversion.

Culture. This island is divided among at least four proprietors. Its soil is a rich black loam upon limestone. It is so very black that it looks like moss, and feels like soap when wrought in the hand. The crops raised here are oats, potatoes, and beans, and of late some flax. The greater proportion of the arable land is under beans, they being frequently sown two or three times successively on the same fields. There is no regular cropping practised in this island. On some farms, as already stated, the tenants sow beans in the same spot of ground three times successively, then two crops of oats, and afterwards they plant potatoes. The infield is constantly in crop; and when the outfield is allowed to lie a year or two in pasture, the tenants in November take spades and dig some earth out of the furrows, and throw it on the ridges, which is here called *fallowing*; and in the spring following some of them scatter a little dung on these ridges, and plough them for bear or big. It is with difficulty the soil is ploughed here,

owing to the limestone rocks which stand up through it, but in such sharp points, that the surface at least might be rendered passable for the plough by breaking them off. There is little lime, &c. used in Lismore; as from want of roads they cannot use carts, and are obliged to carry every thing on horseback. Notwithstanding these circumstances, and the defective skill of the tenants, tolerable crops are produced, in consequence of the natural excellence of the soil. Kerrera.

Proceeding southward to the coast of Lorn is the island of Kerrera, situated about eight miles from the island of Mull, and one mile from the mainland of the district of Lorn. It is four miles in length and two in breadth, and is included in the parish of Killbride. Its surface is very hilly, and many of the rocks have a volcanic appearance. It is the property of Mr M'Dougall of Dunolly, excepting a small farm which belongs to the Earl of Breadalbane. It possesses two good harbours, called the Arintraive and Horse Shoe Bay. King Alexander, when upon an expedition against the Danes, caught a fever and died in this island, on the 8th of July 1249. His ships were anchored in the Horse Shoe Bay, while he, for the benefit of his health, was on shore; and the place where his pavilion was erected bears the name of *Dalree*, i. e. the "King's, Place," from that circumstance. Kerrera.

Farther south from the same coast is a group of isles, which are noted on account of the valuable slates which they produce. The principal of them is the Island of Esdale or Easdale. It is advantageously situated within a few minutes sailing to every vessel that passes through the Sound of Mull round the western coast of Scotland, whether bound for the Baltic, Ireland, Leith, or London. A fine bridge has lately been built, which connects the island with the mainland. The island is nearly circular, about one mile and a half in diame- Easdale.

Easdale. ter, and is celebrated for its having afforded the best and greatest quantity of slate (*ardesia tegularis*) of any spot of equal extent in Great Britain. The slate occupies the whole island, traversed at many places with basaltic veins, and thin layers of quartzoze and calcareous stones. The slate has been quarried here upwards of a hundred years; and of late has been wrought to so great an extent that upwards of 5,000,000 of slates are annually shipped from the island. The number of workmen employed are about 300. The constant demand for the Easdale slate has caused the surface to be cut very low, except at the south end; and as the greater part is now on a level with the sea, it must either be abandoned, or wrought at a considerably greater expence by means of machinery. As already mentioned, however, the strata of slate are not confined to Easdale only; Luing and Leil abound with slates of the same quality, and safe anchoring ground contiguous almost to every quarry, where vessels of any burden may safely ride.

Scarba. To the southward of these is Scarba, an island about three miles in length, and of nearly the same breadth. It is extremely rugged and mountainous. It lies between the mainland and the northern point of the Island of Jura. The famous Gulf of Braecan lies between Jura and Scarba. The sound between these two islands is narrow; and forming a communication between the Atlantic and the internal sea on the coast of Argyle, the rapidity and violence of the tides are tremendous. The gulf is most awful with the flowing tide. In stormy weather, with that tide, it exhibits an aspect in which a great deal of the terrible is blended. Vast openings are formed, in which one would think the bottom might be seen. Immense bodies of water tumble headlong, as over a precipice; then rebounding from the abyss, meet the torrents from above.

They dash together with inconceivable impetuosity, and rise foaming to a prodigious height above the surface. The noise of their conflict is heard through the surrounding islands. This gulf is an object of as great terror to the modern, as Sylla and Charybdis were to the ancient mariners. It is industriously avoided by all who navigate these sounds. There are instances, however, of vessels being drawn into it. Large stout vessels make their way through it in its greatest rage; but to small craft it proves immediate destruction. Jura, &c.

Adjoining to Scarba is Lunga, which is not so mountainous, and is about two miles long and half a mile broad. Balnanaigh is about a mile in circumference, and is all a slate quarry. This quarry has been worked for many years back, and found to yield very good slate. There are generally about thirty men employed in it, who work by the piece, or at so much the thousand of slate. Shuna and the other neighbouring small isles abound in strata of slate. Lunga, Balnanaigh, and Shuna.

From the island of Scarba, and the neighbourhood of the coast of Lorn, the Island of Jura stretches towards the south-west, increasing in breadth as it proceeds. Its south-western part is separated from the island of Isla by a narrow sound or strait. Jura extends fully thirty miles in length, and is, on an average, seven in breadth. It is the most rugged of the Western Isles, being composed chiefly of huge rocks piled on one another in the utmost disorder, naked, and incapable of cultivation. The chief of these mountains extend in the form of a ridge from south to north, nearly in the middle of the island. They are four in number, which are termed the Paps of Jura, and are conspicuous at a great distance, terminating the western prospect from the continent, and are often covered with clouds and darkness. The southern one is Jura. Paps of Jura.

Jura. termed *Bienn-Achaolais*, "the Mountain of the Sound," as being near to the Sound of Isla; the next and highest, *Bienn-an-Oir*, "the Mountain of Gold;" the third, *Bienn-Sheunta*, "the Consecrated Mountain;" and that to the north *Corra-bhien*, "the Steep Mountain." Mr Pennant ascended Bienn-an-Oir with much difficulty. It is composed of large stones covered with mosses near the base, but all above were bare and unconnected with each other. "The whole," says he, "seemed a vast cairn erected by the sons of Saturn." The grandeur of the prospect from the top compensated for the labour of ascending the mountain. From the west side of the hill ran a narrow stripe of rock into the sea, called the "Slide of the old Hagg." Jura itself displayed a stupendous front of rock, varied with innumerable little lakes of the most romantic appearance, and calculated to raise grand and sublime emotions in the mind of the spectator. To the south the island of Ilay lay almost under his feet, and beyond that the north of Ireland; to the east, Gigha, Kintyre, Arran, and the Frith of Clyde, bounded by Airshire, and an amazing tract of mountains as far as Ben-Lomond and the mountains of Argyle Proper. Scarba finished the northern view. Over the Western Ocean were seen Colonsay, Oronsay, Mull, Iona, Staffa, and the neighbouring isles; and still further, the long-extended islands of Coll and Tyrie. Sir Joseph Banks and his friends ascended Bienn-Sheunta, and found it by actual measurement to be 2359 feet above the level of the sea; but Bienn-an-Oir is considerably higher, being elevated 2420 feet above the same level. The west side of the island is not fit for cultivation. It is wild and rugged, intersected by many torrents, which come rushing down from the mountains; and has been deemed so inhospitable that no person chooses to fix his habitation in it. All the

inhabitants live on the east side of the island. Here, a- Jura.
long the margin of the sea, the coast is pretty level; but at a little distance from the shore, there is a gradual ascent. The whole of this side forms a pleasant scene; the coast in several places indented with bays and harbours; the arable and pasture grounds spread out on the declivity, and terminate at the base of these huge rocky Minerals.
mountains, which form a romantic and awful back-ground. The stones forming the mountains are of white or red quartzose granite, some of which are brecciated, or filled with crystalline kernels of an amethystine colour. The other stones of the island are of a bluish-coloured slate, veined with red, so fine as to be used for a whetstone, a micaceous sandstone, and at the northern extremity a quarry of micaceous granite. There is great abundance of iron ore, and a vein of the black oxide of manganese. On the shores of the west coast there are found great quantities of a fine kind of sand, which is carried away for the manufacture of glass.

The soil along the shore is thin and stony. At a greater Soils.
height it becomes moory; and in some places there is improveable moss. Along the foot of the mountains, which proceed in a ridge from north-east to south-west, are numerous springs, forming what is called spouty ground. The crops of oats are not good. Barley, potatoes, and flax, succeed better. Artificial grasses are unknown; and lime cannot be procured by the poor cultivators. The only manure is sea-weed, which can be had in abundance. Se- Animals.
veral kinds of red deer still traverse the mountains; in which also are found abundance of grouse and black game. Numerous herds of sheep and goats have of late been introduced upon the high grounds. Mr Pennant mentions a small worm, a native of the island, that, though in a less pernicious degree, resembled the *furia in-*

Jura. *fernalis* of Linnæus: the *fillan*, or little worm of Jura, small as a sewing thread, and not more than an inch in length, insinuates itself under the skin, causes a redness and great pain, and works its way from place to place. The cure used by the inhabitants is a poultice made of cheese and honey. Sloes are the only fruits of the island; an acid is made from the berries of the mountain ash; and a kind of spirit is also distilled from them. Necessity has instructed the inhabitants in the use of native dyes. Thus the juice of the heath-tops supplies a bright yellow; the roots of the water-lilly produces a dark brown; the astringent roots of the yellow water iris is one of the ingredients in striking a black colour; and the *galium verum*, called *rhu* by the islanders, affords a fine red, scarcely inferior to the *rubia tinctorum*, or madder.

Harbours. There are two very fine harbours on the east side of the island; that to the south is called the Small Isles, and that to the north the Lowlandman's Bay. They are within a few miles of each other. The harbour at the Small Isles is a capacious bay, about four miles in extent. Into the mouth of this bay are thrown longitudinally three or four islands, which leave but narrow openings into the harbour, and form a strong barrier against the violence of the sea. It is from these islands that the harbour takes its name. Lowlandman's Bay opens towards the south, is contracted at the entrance by two points of land, which run out like two arms, but is pretty capacious within. The harbour of Small Isles is rather shallow for vessels of great draught of water; but this is deep enough for any vessel. Notwithstanding the excellence of these harbours, and that Jura is only a few hours sailing from the lochs where herrings are fished, there are no vessels above five or six tons burthen belonging to the island; and of these there are none employed in the fisheries. The course of the tides

along the coast of Jura, particularly in the Sound of Scarba, and in that of Ilay, is very rapid. The navigation of the Sound of Ilay is dangerous; not only from the rapidity of the tides, running six miles an hour, and from the sudden squalls which come from the neighbouring hills, but also from foul ground. Jura.

In this island are several cairns, rude obelisks, and Duns. One relic of antiquity deserves notice on account of its utility in former times. In several places, along the declivity of a hill, are to be seen the ruins of a wall usually terminating at a lake or a precipice. At the lower extremity of the wall there is a deep pit, about twelve feet diameter at the mouth, and very much contracted at the bottom. This the tradition of the country says was a contrivance used in former times for taking the wild boar. The huntsmen drove him along the wall till he took refuge at last in the pit, and there was made captive. Antiquities.

The climate of Jura, like that of the other western isles and coasts of Scotland, is necessarily of a very moist character. The winds blow generally from the west, and sweeping along the broad surface of the Atlantic come loaded with moisture. The clouds, intercepted by the high hills, often descend in torrents. At the same time the air never stagnates; the breezes from the sea are constant; and strong winds are extremely frequent. The diseases that occur are usually of an inflammatory tendency, or result from poor food and defective clothing. In other respects, it would seem that to persons possessing a sound natural constitution, that sort of wet, windy, and unsteady climate, in which the air is very pure, and the extremes of heat and cold are not felt, is favourable to long life. Accordingly, Argyleshire, almost the whole of which may be considered as insular, has presented numerous instances of longevity. The rugged Jura boasts of a patriarch, Gil- Climate.

Colonsay and Oronsay.

lour Mac-Crain, whose age exceeded that of Jenkins or Parr; for he kept 180 Christmasses in his own house, and died in the reign of Charles the First. It may also be remarked, that Provost Brown, late of Inverary, when 100 years old, headed one of the contending parties at a *thisty match* (a game peculiar to North Britain, something similar to the golf), and carried the town's colours in procession among the victors. He died in the 116th year of his age. A variety of individuals are mentioned in this quarter of the world, who have remained capable of exerting themselves in an active manner between the age of 90 and 100, and even beyond the last of these periods.

Colonsay and Oronsay.

The two islands of Colonsay and Oronsay form a part of the parochial district of Jura, tho' situated at a very considerable distance to the westward, and nearer to Isla. They are separated from each other by a narrow sound, which is dry at low water; so that they may with propriety be considered as forming one island. They are said to derive their names from two saints, Colin and Oran. Oran had his cell in Colonsay, but gave his name to the neighbouring island. The surface is unequal, having a considerable number of rugged hills covered with heath; but none of the eminences deserve the name of mountains. It contains about 8000 acres, of which 3000 are arable. The soil is light, and along the shores it inclines to sand, producing early and tolerable crops. Of late the system of converting arable land into pasture has prevailed, and a great part of the two islands is covered with black cattle. The sea-weed, of which there is abundance for kelp and manure, has been tried with success upon meadow ground. When the surface is quite covered with it in winter, a dissolution and incorporation with the soil takes place; the natural clover and finer grasses are encouraged to shoot up, and a most luxuriant crop follows. The pasture on the

low grounds, especially on the south end of the island, is uncommonly rich. Great numbers of rabbits live in these islands, but no hares nor partridges, and very few grouse. The remains of several popish chapels are to be seen in Colonsay. There was a monastery of Cistercians in this island. Their abbacy stood in Colonsay, and its priory in Oronsay. The remains of the abbacy were, with Gothic barbarity, torn asunder not many years ago, and the stones put into a new building. The walls of the priory are still standing, and, next to Icolumkill, is one of the finest religious monuments of antiquity in the Hebrides. No metals of any kind have been discovered in Colonsay. Black talc, the *mica lamellata martialis nigra* of Crontsedt, is found here, both in large detached flakes and immersed in indurated clay; also rock-stone, formed of mica and quartz. An imperfect granite is not unfrequent. There is a great quantity of fine coral on the banks round these islands; and a considerable quantity of kelp is annually made from the sea-weed thrown upon the coast. Islay.

To the south of Colonsay, and the south-west of Jura, is the Island of Islay. Its figure resembles nearly that of a heart; that is to say, its form would be triangular, did not a deep bay encroach far into the southern side. Its apex or point is towards the north. It is twenty-eight miles long, and about eighteen in breadth. This island was anciently the residence of the M'Donalds when Lords of the Isles. Instead of a throne the chieftains stood on a stone seven feet square, in which there was a hollow end to receive their feet. Here the chief was crowned and anointed by the Bishop of Argyle and seven inferior priests, in presence of his chieftains. The ceremony (after the new lord had collected his kindred and vassals) was truly patriarchal. After putting on his armour, helmet, and sword, he took an oath to rule as his ancestors had done; that Islay.

Islay. was, to govern as a father would his children. His people, in return, swore that they would obey him as children pay obedience to the command of their parents. In former times the dominions of the potentate consisted of the whole of the Hebrides; and the peninsula of Kintyre usually shared the fate of the isles; for we find that in 1093, after one of the grants of the isles by the Kings of Scotland, the Lord of the Isles, to bring Kintyre within the compass of the grant, had his barge drawn, under sail, over the isthmus of Tarbert; after which, considering his power, not even the Scottish monarch was so hardy as to deny that Kintyre was an island. About 1586 his dominions consisted only of Isla, Jura, Kintyre, Knapdale; so reduced were they from their former power.

Waters. On the east side of the island the surface is hilly, and covered with heath; but the greater part of the island is flat, and, where uncultivated, covered with a fine green sward. The coast is rugged and rocky, but indented by numerous bays and harbours, which are safe landing places for small vessels; and at Lochindale is a harbour for ships of considerable burden, with a quay, opposite to the large village of Bowmore. There are several lakes; and the island is well watered by numerous streams and rivulets, which abound with trout and salmon. In the centre of the island is Loch Finlagan, about three miles in circuit, with the islet of the same name in the middle.

Near the islet called Finlagan is another little isle, called *Illan-na-Coille*, the "Island of Council," where thirteen judges constantly sat to decide differences among the subjects of the M'Donalds, and received for their trouble the eleventh part of the value of the contested affair. In the first island were buried the wives and children of the Lords of the Isles; but their own persons were deposited in the more sacred ground of Iona.

The crops are principally bear and oats; but though these are uncommonly abundant, upwards of L.1000 worth of grain is annually imported. This want is chiefly owing to the distillation of whisky, which is much practised here; this district having the privilege of distilling without being subject to the excise laws. Much flax is raised here, for which the moist soil seems peculiarly adapted. To the value of about L.2000 or L.3000 is annually exported in coarse yarn. Agriculture is in its rudest state, although the country is blest with the finest manures; possessing not only marl, sea-weed, coral, and shell-sand in abundance, but also an extent of thirty-six square acres of excellent limestone, which might be burnt to advantage with the peat and turf with which the island abounds. Numbers of cattle are imported for feeding; but it often happens that the pastures are overstocked, and in a severe winter many die from want. Ale is frequently made in this island from the young tops of heath, mixing two-thirds of that plant with one-third of malt, sometimes adding hops. Besides the usual domestic animals, there are here found weasles, otters, and hares; the latter dark-coloured, small, and bad runners. The birds are eagles, peregrine falcons, moorfowl, ptarmigans, red-breasted gooseanders, wild geese and ducks, herons, &c. The fish are plaise, smear dab, large dabs, mullets, callans, lump fish, &c.; and sometimes is seen that rare fish, the *lepadogaster* of Mr Gouan. Vipers swarm in the heath; and the natives are said to cure the wound by a poultice of hemlock and henbane.

Islay. Crops. Animals.

Isla is rich in minerals. A lead-mine was here long wrought. The ore is lead much mixed with copper, which renders the separation expensive and troublesome. The veins rise to the surface, have been worked at intervals for

Minerals. Lead mine.

Islay. ages, and probably in the time of the Norwegians,—a nation of miners. The old adventurers worked by trenching, which is apparent every where. The trenches are not above six feet deep, and the veins which opened into them not above five or six inches thick; yet, by means of some instrument unknown to us at present, they picked or scooped out the ore with good success, following it, in that narrow space, to the length of four feet. The veins are of various thickness, the strings numerous, conducting to large bodies, but quickly exhausted. The lead-ore is good; the copper yields thirty-three pounds *per* hundred, and forty-ounces of silver from a ton of the metal. The lead-ore is smelted in an air furnace near Freeport; and as much sold in the pig as lately to one adventurer brought in L.6000. Not far from these mines are vast strata of that species of iron called *bog-ore*, of the concreted kind; beneath that large quantities of vitriolic mundic. On the top of a hill, at some little distance, are some rocks with great veins of emery running in the midst, in a horizontal direction, and from one to three feet thick. A small quantity of quicksilver has been found in the moors, which ought to encourage a farther search.

Antiquities. Various remains of antiquity are to be seen in the island. In the parish of Kilchoman, which forms the western district, there is one lake which covers about one hundred acres of land, and is well supplied with fine trouts. There are several large oak trees at the bottom of it, which shows the country was once under wood. In this lake there is a small island fortified very strong. Its bastions are all entire. To this fort it is said that M'Donald of Islay betook himself in his difficulties.

In the parish of Kildalton, on the east side of Loch-Nock, there is a tower or castle known by the name of

Dun-na-Omhaig. This castle is built on a large rock, Islay, which is surrounded by the sea on all sides, except the north. There are still on the north the remains of many old houses that had been built for barracks and storehouses. Some of the cellars and the baker's house are still visible here. There is a very strong wall on the west side between the castle and the barracks; and the side-walls of a large gate are still standing. The gate is called the *Tron Gate*; and it is reported here that the fort was supplied with water from a small river that runs past the end of the manse, and that it was conducted in pipes under the sea, across this bay, to the distance of about half a mile. There is a large store-room on the top of the fort; and here the gun-ports are entire. On the north side of this room there is an earthen mound, which is very thick; and it appears to have been built up to the top of the fort, as a kind of defence to that part of the building: for the north is the only place where an enemy could make an attack on this fort. There is a high hill on the west side of the bay opposite to this fort, where there was also a tower for the defence of Dun-na-Omhaig; and as both places are nearly of the same height, and only at the distance of about a quarter of a mile from each other, it was an easy matter to prevent small vessels from coming to this place: for no vessels that draw above six or seven feet water can come here at any time.

A great variety of old forts are pointed out in this island, together with the scenes of several battles fought in ancient times between hostile clans. At one place, called Doun Vellan, some high rocks project, one behind the other, into the sea, with narrow isthmuses between. On the ascent of each are strong dikes placed transversely, and a path leading towards the top; and on some parts are hollows, probably the lodging of the occupiers. The last of

Islay. these rocks terminates in a precipice over the sea, and was the dernier resort of the defendants. Such were the fortifications of the barbarous ages. Here, were the assailants successful, the garrison had no alternative but to perish by the edge of the sword, or to precipitate themselves into the ocean. In the same neighbourhood are scattered small holes, formed in the ground, large enough to hold a single man in a sitting posture; the top is covered with a broad stone, and that with earth. In these, unhappy fugitives took shelter after a defeat, and drawing together sods, found a temporary concealment from enemies, who in early times knew not the giving or receiving of quarter. The incursions of barbarians were always short, so that the fugitives could easily subsist in their holes till the danger was over. A fine cave is also exhibited to strangers, called Sanegmore. The entrance is difficult; but the inside is of great extent and height: the roof of solid rock, by the aid of a variety of caverns, returns, with the noise of thunder, the sound of a musquet discharged within it. A second cave, with a fine arched entrance, succeeds the first; after which the cavern is divided into numbers of far winding passages, alternately opening and closing, and forming a subterraneous labyrinth.

Bowmore. The village of Bowmore, in the parish of Kilarrow, is the only one of any importance in the island. It was begun in 1768 on a regular plan. It has an elegant church and steeple fronting the quay. The village is flourishing. About one-half of the houses are covered with slates, and the remainder with tile and thatch. There is twice a-year a market for black cattle here, to which drovers from the mainland resort. The roads in Islay are good. The general improvement of the island has greatly advanced within the last twenty years, and it is perhaps the most

improving and valuable district of the Hebrides of which we have hitherto had occasion to take notice. In this island several ancient diversions and superstitions are still preserved. The last indeed are almost extinct, or only lurk among the very meanest of the people. The *late wakes*, or funerals, like those of the Romans, were attended with sports and dramatic entertainments composed of many parts; and the actors often changed their dresses suitable to their characters. The subject of the drama was historical, and preserved by memory. "The power of fascination," says a late celebrated traveller, "is as strongly believed by the inhabitants of Islay as it was by the shepherds of Italy in times of old. Islay.

Nescio quis teneros oculis mihi fascinat agnos.

But here the power of the *evil eye* affects more the milch cows than the lambs. If any good housewife perceives the effects of the malicious eye on any of her kine, she takes as much milk as she can drain from the enchanted herd (for the witch leaves very little), then boils it with certain herbs, and adds to them flint and untempered steel; after which she secures the door, and invokes the three sacred persons. This puts the witch into such an agony, that she comes *nilling willing* to the house, begs to be admitted to obtain relief by touching the powerful pot; the good woman then makes her terms; the witch restores the milk to the cattle, and in return is freed from her pains. But sometimes, to save the trouble of those charms (for it may happen that the disorder may arise from some other causes than the *evil eye*), the trial is made by immerging in the milk a certain herb; and if the cows are supernaturally affected, it instantly distils blood!! The unsuccessful lover revenges himself on his happy ri-

Islay. val by charms, potent as those of the shepherd Alphesiboeus, and exactly similar.

> Necte tribus nodis ternos Amarylli colores;
> Necte Amarylli modo.

Donald takes three threads of different lines, and ties three knots on each three times, imprecating the most cruel disappointments on the nuptial bed; but the bridegroom, to avert the harm, stands at the altar with an untied shoe, and puts a sixpence beneath his foot." The inhabitants marry young, and are greatly connected by intermarriages, which must always be the case in insular situations. This gives them a clannish disposition and attachment to their country, which, however, does not hinder them from being hospitable to strangers and visitors. The Gaelic is the common language of the common people; yet English is well understood, and taught in all the schools. The song and the dance are the chief amusements; in the latter they exhibit an ease and gracefulness of motion, conjoined with great dexterity, peculiar to the island. The gentlemen once a-year treat the ladies with a ball, where chearfulness and propriety of conduct always preside; and more elegance of manners is now to be seen than could well be expected in so remote a situation. The Highland dress is very little worn.

History affords few records of the ancient state and of the revolutions of Islay. Before it became the seat of government for the Lords of the Isles, it appears to have been under the dominion of the Danes and Norwegians. There are many Duns and castles, supposed of Danish origin; and there are, besides, many places which have Danish names; as *Kennibus*, *Assibus*, *Torrisdale*, *Torribolse*, and the like. It continued under the Lords of the Isles till the reign of King James the Third; and when their

powers were abolished, their descendants the M'Donalds were proprietors, holding directly of the crown. In the year 1598, it was in possession of a Sir James M'Donald, the same who gained the battle of *Traïdhruinard* against the M'Leans. His power gave umbrage to King James the Sixth, who directed the Laird of M'Leod, Cameron of Lochiel, and M'Neil of Barra, to support the M'Leans in another invasion. The rival parties met; and after a dreadful engagement, the M'Donalds were defeated and almost entirely cut off. Sir James escaped to Spain; and returning in 1620, received a pardon, and died at Glasgow. The king then resumed the grant to the M'Donalds made by his predecessors, and transferred the lands of Islay, Jura, and Muckairn in Argyleshire, to Sir John Campbell of Calder, then a great favourite at court, upon paying an annual feu-duty, of which the proportion was L.500 for Islay, which is paid to this day. Calder sold all these lands again to Mr Campbell of Shawfield for L.12,000, which is now little more than the yearly income from them, and they still continue in the same family. Islay.

Proceeding to the south-east, we come to the islands of Gigha and Cara, divided from the peninsula of Kintyre by a channel of three miles and a half broad. These two islands lie along the west coast of Kintyre, extending nearly in a direction from north-east to south-west. The Island of Gigha is about seven miles and a half in length and two and a half in breadth. The territory is low, having few hills, and these are scarcely so high as the arable land of Kintyre. The eastern side and both ends of Gigha are in general arable. The soil is a rich loam, with a mixture in some places of sand, moss, or clay. The shore on the west side is high, rocky, and bold, except near both ends, where there are breakers at some Gigha.

Gigha. distance from the land. On the east side there are several points jutting into the sea, with a few sunk rocks, which render the navigation in some degree dangerous to strangers, especially at night. In day-light the breakers over the sunk rocks are visible. Between these points are several bays and creeks, where small vessels can be safely moored. In the Bay of Airdmeanish, at the head of which is the church, there is good holding ground in five and seven fathom water. Between Gigha and Cara lies Gigulum. Gigulum, a small uninhabited island, with a range of breakers and large rocks running south-west. In the sound between this island and Gigha there is a good anchoring place for large vessels, which may be conveniently moored on the Gigulum side by means of iron rings fixed in the rock. The entrance from the west is between the above mentioned range of rocks and the island of Gigha, and from the east between Gigulum and Gigha. The tide runs north; but there are no remarkable currents near the coast, nor is it easy to ascertain at what rate of knots it runs, being a kind of eddy that strikes off from the rapid current which runs between the Mull of Kintyre and the Sound of Islay. It seldom rises above five and a half or six feet, and that only with a north wind, or in calm weather. With a south wind there is hardly a foot of difference between high and low water. This is attended with disadvantages in repairing, loading, and unloading large vessels. It also prevents the manufacturing of kelp to any great extent; seven tons, at an average, being the greatest quantity made in a season. There is, however, such abundance of sea-ware thrown ashore in stormy weather as sufficiently serves the inhabitants for the purpose of manuring their ground. Though shell-sand abounds in several parts of the island, it is ne-

ver used as a manure, being attended with more trouble than sea-ware. On the coast shell-fish are found in great abundance. They are of a large size and excellent quality; consisting of lobsters, crabs, cockles, and razor-fish (commonly called spout-fish). About two leagues north of Gigha there is a fishing bank, lying north-east and south-west, near four leagues in length. From the beginning of February to the end of March the north-east end of this bank is frequented by fine grey cod, weighing when caught from six to sixteen pounds each; besides some ling, large haddocks, and a great number of skate and dog-fish. From March till May the south-west end is frequented by excellent red cod. The method of fishing the cod is as follows: They are taken with a long line, 700 fathoms in length, having from 400 to 500 large white tinned hooks. The bait used is the fish of a large white wilk, called *buckie* or *dog-wilk*, which is found on a different bank from that whereon the cod is caught. At the beginning of the fishing a dog is killed and singed, and the flesh, after rotting a little, is cut in small pieces and put into creels or baskets made of hazle twigs for the purpose. These creels are sunk by means of stones thrown into them. The flesh of the dog in its putrid state is said to attract the wilk, which crawls up round the sides of the basket, and getting in at the top cannot get out again, owing to the shape of it, which is something like that of a wire mouse-trap. After the first day's fishing, the head and entrails of the cod, with skate and dog-fish, are put into the creels; which are visited every day, the wilks taken out, and fresh bait of the same kind put in, there being no more occasion for dog's flesh. The herring fishery is much carried on here. Gigha. Fishery.

There is no wood in the island, although the trunks of oak trees are dug up in the mosses. The fuel is Productions.

Gigha. peat, and that very scarce. Oats, barley, potatoes, and flax are the articles of crop; and the common pot-herbs are reared in the kitchen garden. Agriculture, upon the whole, is in a low state. On the shore is found a vast bed of fine white sand, which is used in the manufacture of window-glass. It is very fine, and when closely examined the particles have a transparent appearance, resembling fine fragments of rock crystal. The only destructive animal in the island is a small species of wild-cat, which seldom approaches farm-houses, but inhabits the sea-shore and cairns of stones, of which there are several in the island. It kills rabbits, which are here numerous. One of the curiosities of the island is a well, called *Tobar-rath-Bhuathaig*, i. e. the "Lucky Well of Bethag;" a well famous for having the command of the wind. It is situated at the foot of a hill fronting the north-east, near an isthmus called Tarbat. Six feet above where the water gushes out there is a heap of stones, which forms a cover to the sacred fount. When a person wished for a fair wind either to leave the island, or to bring home his absent friends, this part was opened with great solemnity, the stones carefully removed, and the well cleaned with a wooden dish or clam-shell. This being done, the water was several times thrown in the direction from which the wished-for wind was to blow; and this action was accompanied by a certain form of words, which the person repeated every time he threw the water. When the ceremony was over, the well was again carefully shut up, to prevent fatal consequences; it being firmly believed, that were the place left open it would occasion a storm, which would overwhelm the whole island. The ceremony of cleaning the well, as it is called, is now seldom or ever performed. Two old women were lately alive who professed to know all

Superstitions.

the particulars of the ceremony, but the unbelieving character of the age prevented their trade from being profitable. Colgha.

There are several caves here. The most remarkable are two on the west side of the island, near the farm of Ardacha. One of them, called *Uaih Mhor*, or the "Large Cave," was originally 190 feet long. At present there is only a part of it covered, but so filled up with earth and stones that it is difficult to get into it. This part is 86 feet long, and the rest (which is 104) forms a grand entrance to it by a hanging rock, on the north side, 70 feet high; and by another, rising parallel to it, and to the south side, equally high. At a small distance south of this, is *Uaigh-n'an Coleman*, or "Pigeons Cave" (from these birds nestling there). It is about 70 feet long, 30 broad, and 40 high. The end, which, like the other cave, is narrow and dark, is adorned with a beautiful coating of spar, which runs down along the side in large veins, and sometimes in perpendicular tubes. At the south end of the island there is a subterraneous passage 133 feet long, into which the sea runs. About the middle there is an aperture, eight feet long and two broad. Near the end there is another twenty feet long and four broad. Round this aperture are large pieces of rock; one of which having fallen in, and being jammed between the sides, divides it into two, and forms a convenient resting place for taking the depth of the chasm, which is here twenty-two feet, in the middle thirty-two, and at the mouth about forty. When there is a surf, a perpetual mist issues from these apertures, accompanied with a tremendous noise, which is occasioned by the rolling of large stones or fragments of the rock, that have fallen in, and are constantly kept in motion by the agitation of the water. In time of a westerly storm, being exposed to the great swells from the Atlantic Ocean, the sea rushes in with such violence Caverns.

Gigha. as to discharge itself through these openings with a thundering noise, rising to an immense height in the form of intermitting jets. Hence its name *Sloc-an-Leim*, or "Squirting Cave," literally Jumping Pit. The mouth of this cave is only to be seen at low water; and the channel leading to it extends more than 70 feet; so that the whole length is upwards of 200 feet. North from this, at a small distance, is another subterraneous passage, called *Sloc-an-Tiebrannan* (pronounced *Slok-an-Tranan*), i. e. "Snoring Pit," from the kind of noise it makes. It is about thirty-six feet long, and the channel which leads to it more than forty. At the end there is very small opening (not half an inch wide), about which there is a quantity of water always lodged. The condensed air below is forced up by every swell through the small opening, and occasions that bubbling noise in the water which has occasioned the name. At the mouth of this chasm, where the channel is seventeen feet deep, there is a large piece of rock lying across, which occasions a jet here; and this small perforation at the end squirts also in time of storm; so that it is in miniature the same as Sloc-an-Leim. Within a few yards of Sloc-an-Leim there is a rock detached from the rest, thirty-six feet high, forty-six long, and thirty-four broad on the top; it was surrounded with a dry stone wall, and is called *Carn Leim*, from its vicinity to the chasm already mentioned. The country people say it was a beacon for directing vessels into the harbour of Gigulum Sound. About the centre of the island is *Dun Chefi*, or "Keffie's Hill," which appears to have been a strong fortification. On the north-west, north, and north-east sides, there is a steep ascent from forty to eighty feet deep. At the top of this ascent there is a perpendicular rock, from twenty-four to thirty-seven feet high; the rest is inclosed

with a dry stone wall, nine feet thick, and from eight to ten feet high. On the east side there is a steep ascent of thirty-eight feet (seemingly cut out of the rock) leading to the gate, which is four feet wide. In the middle of the Dun or inclosure is an elevation which commands a view of the place on all sides, and of the country round. It is a hundred and twenty feet long and sixty-seven broad. Tradition says, that Keffie, the King of Lochlin's son, who occupied this strong hold, was killed there by Diarmed, one of Fingal's heroes, with whose wife he had run away. Within sight of Dun Chefi, about a mile north-east, there is another beautiful little hill, surrounded by a dry stone wall, and rising in a valley, which happens to be marshy, whence it has its name *Dunan-an-Tsheasguin* (pronounced *Dunan-an-Teasguin*), i. e. the "Little Hill in the Marsh." It is a steep rocky ascent, ninety-five feet long, fifty-five broad, and thirty-six high, but level on the top. The gate fronts Dun Chefi, is four feet wide, and the wall nine feet thick. At the northern extremity of the island, on the top of a hill, there is a circular cairn of stones, called *Carn-na-Faipe*, or "Watch Cairn," fifty-three feet diameter. About half a mile south is another cairn, called *Cairn-Ban*, or "White Cairn." It is also circular, and measures five feet in diameter. To the south-west of it is a rude obelisk, eight feet in height, which, from its inclined position, must at least be three feet under ground. Near the common burying place in the island, adjacent to the ruins of an old chapel, is an obelisk, which inclines to the south-west. It is fourteen feet and a half high above ground, three feet broad, and eight inches thick at the edges. Another obelisk is seen on the summit of a neighbouring hill. Gigha.

The Island of Cara, is only about a mile long and Cara.

Cara. half a mile broad. The shore of this little island is high and rocky, except at the north-east, where the landing place is. The south end, called the Maorl of Cara, which is the highest part of the island, is a perpendicular rock measuring 117 feet in height. From the shore to the foundation of this rock, there is a steep ascent equal to 50 feet perpendicular, which makes the whole height 167 feet. Here all the different species of sea fowl nestle in May, which, added to the grand appearance of the rock, forms a delightful view of the sea; and on approaching it the ear is no less gratified than the eye. The number and variety of notes which the appearance of any visitor occasions among the birds, together with the murmur of the sea and echo of the rocks, form a concert by no means disagreeable. This rock has a great deal of iron ore in it; and in one place, which was struck with lightning several years ago, large pieces were thrown down, which seemed to be a mixture of copper and iron. Close by the Maorl, there is a cave forty feet long, five broad, and five high. At the end there is a small opening, which communicates with another cave, measuring thirty-seven feet in length, nine in breadth, and nine in height. This cave is open at the side, which admits a good deal of light; and from the top streams of clear water fall down. The northern part of the island abounds with rabbits, where the soil is a mixture of shells, sand, and earth. The rest of the island is mossy, and the greater part might be cultivated; but it is found more profitable to keep it in pasture.

Sanda. Last of all, we may take notice of the small island of Sanda, situated adjacent to the Mull of Kintyre, or southern part of that peninsula. It is above a mile and a half in length and half a mile in breadth;—famed as the place of rendezvous for the Danish fleet in their excursions to

these coasts. Hence it went under the name of *Avona Porticosa*, and is still sometimes called Avon. Sanda, however, is the more ancient as well as the common name, as appears from St Columba's life by Adamnan. In this island are the remains of an old Popish chapel. There are also two other small islands at the east side of Sanda, well calculated for keeping sheep; and about a league to the south of it there lies a dangerous rock, called *Paterson's Rock*, above a mile in circumference. Several vessels have been endangered, and some lost upon this rock, which is always covered at high water, but visible at low water. In the Sound of Sanda, which is a league distant from the continent, there is plenty of cod. Sanda.

The population of the continental part and of the islands of Argyleshire will be found in the following Table:

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons	Total of Persons
Ardchattan	2195	2400	687	791	196	159	1123	1478
Ardnamurchan and Sunart	5000	4542	1239	1425	429	75	2160	2664
Bowmore	—	—	1310	1471	519	213	2049	2781
Campbelton	4597	8700	3095	3998	661	649	5783	7093
Craignish	769	770	417	487	204	49	651	904
Dunoon and Kilmuir	1757	1683	805	945	164	58	1528	1750
Dalairch	—	—	218	268	123	26	337	486
Glassary	2751	2568	1651	1642	456	154	2683	3293
Glenorchy	1654	1869	512	599	356	49	706	1111
Inishaill	—	—	333	407	32	74	634	740
Inverary and Glengary	2751	1832	986	1065	114	215	1722	2051
Inverchaolin	944	504	303	323	86	24	516	626
Kilcalmonell and Killbery	1925	2448	1401	1551	2253	149	550	2952
Killochatton & Killbrandon	1492	2060	1055	1223	989	91	1198	2278
Kilchrenan	1030	1124	957	1033	355	96	1539	1990
Kilfinnan	1793	1417	682	750	123	87	1222	1432
Killen and Kilchenzie	2391	1911	1198	1322	314	126	2080	2520
Killmoney	—	—	724	819	215	35	72	1543
Killmally, Argyle district	—	—	584	695	1249	28	2	1279
Kilmartin	1150	1537	734	767	190	76	1235	1501
Kilmore and Kilbride	1200	1886	858	996	104	222	1528	1854
Kilmorach	—	—	209	256	108	51	306	465
Killmodan	806	351	243	259	90	32	380	502
Kilminver and Kilmelford	1045	1178	552	621	123	50	1000	1173
Knapdale, North	1369	1009	1166	1235	1166	—	—	2401
Ditto, South	1292	1524	820	896	820	—	—	1716
	36911	41313	22739	25844	11439	2788	31004	48583

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801. Persons. Males.	Persons. Females.	Occupations. Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other Persons.	Total of Persons
Brought over ..	36911	41313	22739	25844	11439	2788	31004	48583
Lismore and Appin	2812	3526	1559	1684	3188	45	10	3243
Lochgoilhead ...	1505	1012	326	354	233	101	346	680
Morven	1223	1764	960	1123	266	199	495	2083
Muckairn	—	—	440	453	26	137	730	893
Saddel	1369	1341	377	422	83	19	697	799
Skipness	—	—	495	473	104	37	829	968
Southend	1300	1391	863	962	747	39	1039	1825
Strachur	1193	1061	303	343	47	49	550	646
Strathlachlan....	—	—	193	240	50	13	420	433
	47404	51317	28255	31898	16183	3467	36120	60153
ISLANDS.								
Mull. Torosay ...	1012	1733	811	953	462	55	1247	1764
Mull. Kilfinichen	1685	3002	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mull. Kilninian ..	2590	3281	1710	1891	894	167	2540	3601
Islay. Kilarrow ..	5344	9500	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islay. Kilchoman .			925	1125	616	200	1234	2050
Islay. Kildalton ..			957	1033	355	96	1539	1990
Jura	1097	1858	577	625	342	142	718	1202
Colonsay and Oronsay ...	—	—	386	419	96	68	641	805
Coll and Tiry ...	2702	3457	561	601	246	47	869	1162
Gigha and Cara	514	614	277	279	90	60	127	556
Small Isles, including Egg	943	1339	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of Argyleshire islands ..	15887	24784	6204	6926	3101	835	8915	13130
Total of the continental parts of Arg.	47404	51317	28255	31898	16183	3467	36120	60153
Total of the whole county	63291	76101	34459	38824	19284	4302	45035	73 2 9

SHIRE OF BUTE.

THE remainder of the Hebrides or Western Isles are comprehended under the Shire of Bute. This small shire or county sends a member to parliament alternately with Caithness. It consists of the Islands of Bute and Arran, together with the small isles called Greater and Lesser Cumbray, and Inchmarnoch.

Island of Bute. The Island of Bute is situated in the Frith of Clyde; and vessels from the Atlantic, entering that river, pass along the eastern side of the island. Bute is separated from the district of Cowal in Argyleshire by a long and narrow channel of half a mile in breadth. The longitudinal extent of Bute from north to south is about eighteen miles; its greatest breadth, from east to west, about five miles; but some large bays entering deep into its area, render its line of circumference irregular. Except in the vicinity of Cowal, it is rather hilly than mountainous; and even where highest, the elevation of the hills is considerably lower than the contiguous mountains of Cowal. The northern parts of the island are rocky and barren, but the southern part is more fertile; extensive tracts are cultivated; and in the article of inclosure it has the start of the more southern counties of Scotland. The hedges of white thorns are tall, thick, and vigorous. The produce of the island is barley, oats, and potatoes, together with turnips and artificial grasses, which here flourish uncommonly well. The stimulating manures are coral and

sea-shells, sea-weeds, and lime. Though the island is destitute of coal, yet much lime is calcined, both for private use and for exportation. Great numbers of cattle are reared, and but few sheep. The air is in general temperate. No mists or thick crawling fogs from the sea infest this island; and snow rarely lies. The evils of the place are wind and rain; the last of which comes in deluges from the west. Mount Stuart, a seat of the Marquis of Bute, and from whence he takes his second title, is an elegant house, situated about two hundred yards from the eastern shore, having a fine view of the Frith of Clyde, and of the shipping which enter that river. There is a forest of fine trees round the house; and the natural beauties of the place have been much increased by the taste of the noble owners. There are two or three other handsome mansions in the island. The coast is rocky, but indented with several safe harbours, from which are annually fitted out a number of busses for the herring fishery. This is the principal trade carried on. The inhabitants engage in it with great activity and spirit.

Isle of Bute.

Mount Stuart.

Bute contains a royal borough; Rothsay. The town is excellently situated for trade, having a fine harbour at the bottom of an extensive bay, on the north-west side of the island, in which there is safe anchorage. About forty years ago the town was in a state of indigence, and possessed only one decked vessel, and that of inconsiderable burden. Under the auspices, however, of the late Earl of Bute, the industry and emulation of the inhabitants of Rothsay were first excited, and their vigorous perseverance has wrought a most remarkable change. Within the short period before mentioned, they had accumulated shipping to the amount of 4246 tons in 1790. Sixty busses, amounting to 3104 tons, manned by 715 hands, were in that year fitted out from this port for the herring fishery.

Rothsay.

Isle of Bute. The borough of Rothsay was enfranchised by King Robert the Third in the year 1400, when its castle was the royal residence. At that time it was a considerable town, but in succeeding years it greatly declined; and in 1762 many of the houses lay in ruins. Since that period these houses have been rebuilt, and several new streets have been added. But the flourishing state of the town is not solely owing to the herring fishery; the establishment of a cotton mill in 1778 has given the inhabitants a knowledge in that species of manufacture, and caused others to prosecute the same branch. Rothsay, as a royal borough, unites with Air, Inverary, and Campbeltown, in sending a representative to parliament. The only relic of antiquity worth notice is the castle, the ruin of which is so completely covered with ivy that few of its walls can be seen. Here are still pointed out the bed-chambers and banqueting rooms of Robert the Second and Third, the last Scottish monarchs who inhabited this venerable pile. This castle was in succeeding ages the principal residence of the Stuarts, ancestors of the present family of Bute, long the hereditary constables of the kingdom. It continued to be their residence until it was burned by the Duke of Argyle in the troubles of 1685. It is now fast mouldering away with age; but the Earl of Bute has the title of hereditary keeper of the palace. Rothsay gives the Scottish title of Duke to the apparent heir of the crown.

In the southern part of the island many rocks form basaltic pillars. Abundance of slate is found in the island, and great quantities are exported. As Bute lies in the neighbourhood of the most populous districts of the west of Scotland, its exports are conveyed thither. There is a ready sale for every kind of produce, either at Rothsay, Greenock, or the Largs. There are two packets every week from Rothsay, and a ferry-boat once every week

from Scoulay, near Mount Stuart, to the Largs. Not only are all sorts of tradesmen to be found in the town of Rothsay, but throughout the island a complete division of employments has taken place. When the late Earl of Bute came to his estate, the farms, as in the rest of the Hebrides, were possessed by a set of men who carried on at the same time the profession of husbandry and fishing, to the manifest injury of both. His Lordship drew a line between these incongruent employments, and obliged each to carry on the business he preferred distinct from the other: yet, in justice to the old farmers, notice must be taken of their skill in ploughing, even in their rudest days; for the ridges were straight, and the ground laid out in a manner that did them much credit. But this new arrangement, with the example given by his Lordship of inclosing, by the encouragement of burning lime for some, and by transporting *gratis* to the nearest market the produce of all, has given to this island its present flourishing aspect. At the same time, the fisheries, as affording at times a most speedy path to wealth, are preferred to agriculture. That species of industry also is recommended by the circumstance of its being attended with greater independence. Isle of Bute.

On the western side of Bute is Inchmarnoch, so called from St Marnoch. The ruins of a chapel are to be seen on it, where (according to Fordun) had been a cell of monks. The extent of this little isle is about a mile; has 120 acres of arable land, 40 of brushwood, near 300 of moor; and has a vast stratum of coral and shells on the west side. The surface of the island is beautifully diversified with hill and dale. Inchmarnoch.

The Island of Arran lies to the south-west of Bute, in the mouth of the Frith of Clyde, directly opposite to Loch Fyne, at the distance of five miles south from the Arran.

Arran. district of Cowal in Argyleshire, nearly ten miles south-west from Bute; from Lochryan in Galloway about fifteen leagues north-west. In length this island may be from twenty-four to thirty miles, extending between north and south. Its greatest breadth from east to west exceeds fourteen miles. Its surface is almost every where rugged and mountainous. From the top of Goatfell, its highest mountain, nearly in the centre of the island, the three British kingdoms, with the Isle of Man, may be seen at once. The height of this mountain is equal to most of the Scottish Alps, composed of immense piles of moor stone in form of wool packs, clothed only with lichens and mosses, inhabited by eagles and ptarmigans. The other principal mountains are, *Bein-Bharrain*, or the "sharp-pointed;" *Bein-na-Caillich*, "the Step of the Carline or old Hag;" and *Grianan Athol*. The lakes are, Loch-Yirsa, where salmon come to spawn; Loch-Tana; Loch-na-h-Jura, on the top of a high hill; Loch-Mhaclirai; and Loch-Knoc, or Charbeil, full of large eels. The chief rivers are, Abhan-Mhor, Moina-Mhor, Slaodira-Machrai, and Torsa. The two last remarkable for the abundance of salmon. The climate is very severe; for, besides the violence of winds, the cold is very rigorous, and the snow lies here in the valleys sometimes for thirteen weeks of the winter. In summer the air is remarkably salubrious; and many invalids resort hither on that account, and to drink the whey of goats milk. The soil is broken by bare rocks, and in many places overgrown with heath or ferns. Upon the sea-coast it is arable, and under partial cultivation. It has some good coal, and enough of excellent peat earth. Its other more remarkable fossils are freestone, of a very fine grain, limestone, onyxes, rock-crystal, fullers earth. The air is pure, but cold. Great quantities of rain and snow usually fall in winter. The

circumference is broken and indented by bays, which afford good anchorage and shelter to shipping. The Cock of Arran, a hill towards the northern extremity of the island, is a famous sea-mark. The island is watered by many springs, from which rivulets arise, and by the lakes already mentioned, out of one of which Loch-Yirsa, a fine river, flows. That bay which is covered by the Islet of Lamlash is one of the best harbours in the world, accessible with every wind, and capable of holding five hundred ships at once with conveniency and in safety. The lakes and rivers abound with salmon, trout, and other fishes common in fresh water. On the coast are caught cod, ling, whiting, herrings, and other sea-fishes. That amphibious quadruped, the otter, is common in Arran. All the fowls common to the Western Isles are found here, especially the black cock and grey hen, partridges, ptarmigans, &c. The animal stock on the farms consists of black cattle, horses, sheep, goats, rabbits. Sheep and black cattle are the staple articles of farm stock. Barley, oats, peas, flax, hemp, and potatoes, are the common articles of crop. Of these, oats is that chiefly cultivated. About one thousand black cattle may be annually exported to Airshire and other places. Barley also is exported to Greenock, Saltcoats, Irvine, Air, and Campbeltown. The sea-weeds on the shores, burnt into kelp, afford more than a hundred tons for annual exportation. More than sixty boats are every year employed in the herring fishery. The herrings taken in them are for the most part sold uncured on the circumjacent coasts. The ferns have been at times burnt, and the ashes carried away, by persons who came in essels from England for the purpose. The inhabitants dwell in hamlets scattered over the island. The more necessary mechanic arts are practised among them. Some yarn is spun, and a little coarse cloth woven for common

Arran.

Arran. use. On the east side of the island the inhabitants generally speak English; those on the west side use the Gaelic. The Duke of Hamilton is proprietor of the greater part of the island.

History. Arran, or properly *Air-Inn*, or the "Island of Mountains," seems not to have been noticed by the ancients; notwithstanding it must have been known to the Romans, whose navy, from the time of Agricola, had its station in the *Glota Æstuarium*, or the "Firth of Clyde." Camden, indeed, makes this island the *Glota* of Antonine; but no such name occurs in his Itinerary; it therefore was bestowed on Arran by some of his commentators. By the immense cairns, the vast monumental stones, and many relics of Druidism, this island must have been considerable in ancient times. Here are still traditions of the hero Fingal, or Fin-mac-Coul, who is supposed to have enjoyed here the pleasure of the chace; but many places retain his name. But we can discover nothing but oral history that relates to the island, till the time of Magnus the Barefooted, the Norwegian conqueror, who probably included Arran in his conquest of Cantyre. If he did not conquer that island, it was certainly included among those that Donald Bane was to cede: for it appears that Acho, one of the successors of Magnus, in 1263, laid claim to Arran, Bute, and the Cumbrays, in consequence of that promise. The two first he subdued; but the defeat he met with at Largs soon obliged him to give up his conquests. Arran was the property of the crown. Robert Bruce retired hither during his distresses, and met with protection from his faithful vassals. Numbers of them followed his fortunes; and after the battle of Bannockburn he rewarded several, such as the M'Cooks, M'Kinnons, M'Brides, and M'Loues or Fullertons, with different charters of land in their own country. All these

are now absorbed by one great family, except the Fullertons, and a Stuart, descended from a son of Robert the Third, who gave him a settlement here. In the time of the Dean of the Isles his descendant possessed Castle Donan; and "he and his bluid," says the Dean, "are the best men in that country." The manner in which Robert Bruce discovered his arrival to his friends is so descriptive of the simplicity of the times, that it merits notice, in the very words of the faithful old poet, historian of that great prince: Arran.

The king then blew his horn in by,
And gart his men that were him by
Hold them still in privity;
And syne again his horn blew he.
James of Dowglas heard him blow,
And well the blast soon can he know;
And said, surelie yon is the king,
I know him well by his blowing.
The third time therewith als he blew,
And then Sir Robert Boyde him knew,
And said, yon is the king; but dreed,
Go we will forth to him gude speed.

BARBOUR.

About the year 1334, this island appears to have formed part of the estate of Robert Stuart, great steward of Scotland, afterwards Robert the Second. At that time the inhabitants took arms to support the cause of their master; who afterwards, in reward, not only granted, at their request, an immunity from their annual tribute of corn, but added several new privileges, and a donative to all the inhabitants that were present. In 1456, the whole island was ravaged by Donald Earl of Ross and Lord of the Isles. At that period it was still the property of James the Second; but in the reign of his successor, James the Third, when that monarch matched his sister to Thomas

Arran. Lord Boyd, he created him Earl of Arran, and gave him the island as a portion. Soon after, on the disgrace of that family, he caused the Countess to be divorced from her unfortunate husband, and bestowed both the lady and island on Sir James Hamilton; in whose family it continues till this time, a very few farms excepted.

Antiquities. Arran contains various remains of antiquity. One of these is Brodie Castle, standing on an eminence, amidst flourishing plantations, overlooking a small bay which is open to the east. This place has not at present much the appearance of a fortress, having been modernized. It is, however, a place of much antiquity; and seems to have been the fort held by the English under Sir John Hastings in 1306, when it was surprised by the partizans of Robert Bruce, and the garrison put to the sword. It was demolished in 1456 by the Earl of Ross, in the reign of James the Second. It is said to have been rebuilt by James the Fifth, and to have been garrisoned in the time of Cromwell's usurpation. Few are the records of these distant places; therefore very wide must be their historic gaps.

Brodie Castle.

Ransa Castle. Ransa Castle stands on a low projecting neck of land, and guards the entrance into a small harbour. It was founded by one of the Scottish monarchs, and is of some antiquity; for Fordun, who wrote about the year 1360, speaks of this and Borthwick as royal castles. This building consists of two square towers united. It is built with a red grit stone. In one room is a chimney-piece and fireplace large enough to have roasted an entire ox. It is now abandoned and in ruins.

Several rude obelisks are to be seen in different parts of the island, and some of the remains of Druidical temples in sequestered situations. These, however, are generally imperfect, in consequence of some of the stones having fallen

down, and from having been broken and carried off to be used for ordinary buildings. Vast cairns or heaps of stones are also to be seen. One at Feoling is no less than 114 feet over, and of a vast height, on a part of the western coast, called *Dium-an-Diun*, or the "Ridge of the Fort," from a round tower that stands above. The beach is bounded by cliffs of whitish grit-stone, hollowed beneath into vast caves. The most remarkable are those of *Fin-mac-Coul*, or "Fingal, the son of Comhal," the father of Ossian, who, tradition says, oft resided in this island for the sake of hunting. One of these caverns is 112 feet long and 30 high, narrowing to the top like a Gothic arch: towards the end it branches into two. Within these two recesses, which penetrate far, are on each side several small holes opposite to each other. In these were placed transverse beams, that held the pots in which the heroes seethed their venison; or probably, according to the mode of the times, the bags formed of the skins of animals slain in the chace, which were filled with flesh, and served as kettles sufficiently strong to warm the contents: for the heroes of old devoured their meat half raw, holding that the juices contained the best nourishment. On the front of the division between these recesses, and in one side, are various rude figures cut in stone, of men, of animals, and of a *claymore* or two-handed sword: but whether these were the amusements of the Fingalian age or of after times, is not easy to be ascertained; for caves were the retreat of pirates as well as heroes. Here are several other hollows adjacent, which are shown as the stables, cellar, and dog-kennel of the great Mac-Coul. One cave, which is not honoured with a name, is remarkably fine, of great extent, covered with a beautiful flat roof, and very well lighted by two august arches at each end. Through one is a fine perspective of the promontory *Carn-Caan*, or the Antiquities.

Antiquities

"white heap of stones," whose sides exhibit a long range of columnar rocks (not basaltic) of hard grey whinstone, resting on a horizontal stratum of red stone. At the extremity one of the columns is insulated, and forms a fine obelisk.

Cumbray More.

The islands of Cumbray More and Cumbray Beg, or Great and Little Cumbray, are situated on the coast of Airshire, in the Frith of Clyde, near the southern part of the Island of Bute. The Greater Cumbray is distant about two miles from Airshire, and three miles from Bute. It is separated from the Little Gumbray upon the south by a channel of three quarters of a mile broad. The length of the island from north-east to south-west is two miles and a half; the breadth from east to west, about one mile and a half. The surface contains about 2300 acres, one-third of which is or might be cultivated. With a few exceptions, the hills rise with a gentle ascent to the centre of the island, where they are elevated nearly 400 feet above the level of the sea. The soil is in general a gravelly loam, and in some places a mixture of clay. There are a few inclosures; and some plantations have been lately made by the Earl of Glasgow, who is proprietor of the greatest part of the island. A considerable manufacture of coarse linen is carried on in the village of Millport, which is pleasantly situated on the south-west side of the island. Here is a commodious dry harbour, where in spring tides there is water to the height of eleven feet. There is also a safe anchorage, sheltered by a rocky islet. There is plenty of limestone, and an inexhaustible fund of excellent freestone; of which last there is exported to the value of L.200 *per annum*. There are two rocks on the east side of the island, which have joints and seams like the basaltic rocks of Staffa, but are not so regularly columnar. They have the same chemical properties, and

may be estimated as the production of volcanic fusion and eruption. Little Cumbray.

Little Cumbray is about a mile in length, and half a mile in breadth. The strata of rocks are horizontal; and as they recede from the shore, they rise above each other like stairs. There are several caves in the island, and an old fortress, which we mentioned when treating of Air-shire. Upon the highest part of the island a light-house was erected in the year 1750; but as, from its elevated situation, the light was liable to be obscured in fogs, another, with a reflector, was lately erected upon a lower station. The whole island belongs to the Earl of Eglintoun.

The population of the shire of Bute stands thus; Population

Parishes.	Population in 1755.	Population in 1790-8.	Population in 1801.					
			Persons.		Occupations.			
			Males.	Females.	Persons employed in agriculture.	Persons employed in trades, &c.	All other persons	Total of Persons
Cumbray	—	—	241	265	121	130	255	506
Kilbride	1369	2545	1008	1175	662	92	1429	2183
Kilmory	2277	3259	1369	1627	829	126	2041	2996
Kingarth	998	727	439	436	747	126	2	875
Rothesay	2222	4032	2495	2736	802	4347	82	5231
Total	6866	10563	5552	6239	3161	4821	3809	11791

CONCLUSION.

THE limits to which this Work is meant to be confined leave to us little space for introducing here a summary of its contents, or a general account of the ancient kingdom of Scotland; but it is hoped that the minuteness of the details which we have given will render much recapitulation unnecessary. Scotland extends from north to south, that is, from the Mull of Galloway to Cape Wrath on the west coast, 230 miles. Its greatest breadth, from the Point of Ardnamurchan, in Argyleshire, to Buchan Ness, near Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, is 180 miles. At the same time, the sea encroaches so deeply upon the land, in all quarters, by deep bays, that no part of the territory is distant from the sea more than forty miles. The islands of Orkney and Shetland, belonging to Scotland, stretch far to the north; so that, including these, Scotland lies between 54° and 61° 12′ north latitude. Its Western Isles extend to a great distance into the Atlantic, and lie in front of the whole coast, from Cape Wrath southward to the vicinity of Ireland.

Extent of Scotland.

Area.

The area of Scotland is estimated to extend to 27,794 miles; which, by the Report lately made to the Board of Agriculture, comprehends 12,151,472 acres of cultivated, and 14,218,224 acres of uncultivated lands. The remainder of the surface is occupied by lakes and rivers.

Scotland is, at two different points, so deeply encroached

on by deep gulfs or bays running into the land from the German Ocean on the east, and the Atlantic on the west, as to have suggested the idea of forming inland navigations across the country at these places. One of these navigable canals connects the estuary of the Forth with that of the Clyde, on the tract of the ancient Roman wall of Antoninus. The other inland navigation is now forming between Inverness and Fort William, where the Murray Frith advances inland, from the east, towards the Linnhe Loch from the west. Beyond this intended navigation, northward, the breadth of the island is less than in the more southern districts. Friths.

The most ordinary division of Scotland is into the Highlands and Lowlands. The Grampian mountains, running in a direction from Cowal on the north-west, to Stonehaven, in Kincardineshire, on the north-east, form a vast natural barrier, the retreat of national independence in ancient times. To the northward of this line, however, the eastern coast has always been accounted a part of the Lowlands of Scotland as far north as Ross-shire; and a part of the coast of this last county has also been uniformly considered as belonging to the Lowlands. The county of Caithness, also, forming the north-eastern part of the island of Great Britain, is a Lowland district. With the exception, however, of the east coast, and the coasts of the Murray Frith, the territory to the north-west of the Grampians is to be considered as forming that division of the country denominated the Highlands of Scotland. The Highlands and the Lowlands have for ages been inhabited by different races of men, speaking a different language, and till lately wearing a different garb. In the days of Wallace and Bruce, the language of the Gael of the mountains was no less unintelligible to a native of the country southward of the Grampians than it is at present. This Divisions.

Rivers, Mountains.

distinction, however, is rapidly passing away. Schools have been established by the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and by the public, in most districts of the Highlands; and even the poorest persons are eager to give to their children that chance of improving their fortune which results from understanding the language used in the wealthier parts of the empire. The families of the gentry of the Highlands have for two centuries used the English tongue, and it will probably soon be universally used in the country.

Rivers.

The territory of Scotland, especially towards the north, descends, upon the whole, from west to east; and hence the most important rivers flow into the German Ocean. The Tweed, the Forth, the Tay, the Dee, the Don, the Spey, and the Beauly, all flow in that direction; whereas the Clyde is the only stream of great importance that flows towards the west, and it is one of the rivers of the Lowlands. On the western coast of the Highlands the streams are rather rapid mountain-torrents than rivers.

Mountains.

The chains of mountains in Scotland are those of the south and the north. On the south, Scotland has a mountainous barrier, on the frontier of England, that occupies the middle of the country; but the mountains in that quarter do not rear to the clouds naked and rugged peaks, such as are seen beyond the line of the Grampians. To the summit the southern mountains are green, or at least heath-clad hills. The vales between them, also, are extremely narrow, and rarely exhibit long, fertile, and romantic glens, like those which are to be found in the north of Scotland. The mountains of the south of Scotland terminate before they reach the sea, on either hand leaving a tract of level country on each side of the island, by which invading armies in former times entered the country. To the northward of the southern mountains, upon the Clyde, the Forth, and the Tay, is the most valua-

able part of the Lowlands of Scotland. It is nowhere, however, to any great extent, a level country; but it is every where interspersed with hills, or ridges of hills. Woods, Agriculture.

Beyond the Grampians, towards the north-west, monstrous chains of mountains are seen rearing their naked summits, often snowy, and perpetually barren, above the clouds. The following are the heights of some of the most remarkable mountains of the north of Scotland above the level of the sea;

	Feet.		Feet.
Ben Nevis	4370	Ben Derig	3550
Cairngorum	4030	Ben Voirlich	3300
Ben Lawers	4015	Ben Lomond	3262
Ben More	3907	Ben Ledi	3009
Ben Glo	3725	Ben Ivenow	3000
Shechallion	3564	Ben Chochan	3000

The forests of Scotland were anciently of vast extent; and although these were cut down in such a rash and improvident manner as to leave much of the territory very naked, and much exposed to the severity of a northern climate for two centuries, yet this evil is already in a great degree remedied; and if the present spirit of rearing plantations shall continue for a short time, it will speedily be altogether done away. Woods.

The agriculture of the south-eastern counties of Scotland is believed to be already in a state of perfection superior to what is known any where else in Europe, or rather in the world. This state of improvement was begun little more than fifty years ago; but the general intelligence of the people has enabled them to outrun, in that important art, their instructors in the south. They had, no doubt, this advantage in Scotland, that as they began to improve their agriculture at a late period, it was as easy to adopt at once the very best practices as to adopt any other new form of management, Agriculture.

Minerals. Upon the minerals of the country it is unnecessary here to enlarge. In the territory upon the Clyde and the Forth immense quantities of mineral coal are found; and in the former of these territories the most valuable of the metals, iron, is manufactured in considerable quantities. All the other metals, however, and even gold and silver, are found in Scotland. The lead mines near the head of the Clyde, and at Strontian in Argyleshire, are highly productive. Sandstone and slate abound; and also the rocks called whinstone. In the Grampians, granite and other varieties of minerals abound; and limestone has been discovered in almost every part of the kingdom. We have had occasion to mention that various sorts of gems have been discovered, particularly topazes; and that pearls have been found in a considerable number of the waters.

It is believed, however, that the mineral treasures of this country have by no means hitherto been sufficiently explored.

Literary institutions. The literature of the country is supported by four universities, and by a school established by the public in every parish, the teacher of which has a small salary, and derives the remainder of his subsistence from fees paid by his scholars.

Ecclesiastical establishment. The ecclesiastical establishment bears a republican form. All the clergy are equal in point of rank; and in their deliberations the laity have an opportunity of taking a share. The ecclesiastical courts are of four degrees or orders. The kirk-session is the lowest. It consists of the parish-minister, and of a small number of the most decent and respectable individuals in the parish. These persons are called *ruling elders*, to distinguish them from the clergy, who are *preaching elders*. The ruling elders and the minister form the kirk-session, of which the minister is president. The kirk-session distributes

among the poor the alms which are publicly collected every Sunday; and takes cognisance of petty offences against religion or good morals. Neither it, nor any church-court, can impose any civil penalty, but must confine its punishments to public and private admonitions, or to refusing to the offender admission to the sacraments of the church. The next court above the kirk-session is the presbytery. It consists of all the ministers of a district, along with a ruling elder elected as the representative of each kirk-session; so that a presbytery consists of as many laymen as clergymen. Presbyteries judge in appeals from the kirk-sessions, and take trial of the qualifications of candidates for admission to holy orders. The synod is a court of appeal from the presbyteries, and consists of all the members of the presbyteries within its bounds, whether laity or clergy. Scotland is divided into seventy-eight presbyteries and fifteen synods, containing nine hundred and thirty-six clergy. Over the whole presides the General Assembly of the Church, formed of representatives elected by the presbyteries and by the royal boroughs. Each royal borough is represented by a ruling elder in the general assembly; and each presbytery by one or more ruling elders, and by a certain number of clergymen. The elections are annual, and the general assembly meets annually. The presbyteries have the privilege of electing such a number of clergymen as gives to the clergy a majority of votes in the general assembly over the laity. The general assembly judges in appeals from the synods. It can also make laws binding upon the whole church for a year, and no more. A permanent law can only be made in the following manner: It must be decreed by a majority of the general assembly; after which it is remitted to the consideration of all the presbyteries. If a majority of presbyteries approve of it, and if it is also ap-

Ecclesiastical Establishment.

Political Representation.

proved of by the succeeding general assembly, it becomes a law, and can only be repealed in the form in which it was enacted. The clergy have salaries paid by the proprietors of land within their parishes; and the amount of each minister's salary is fixed by the court of session, acting as a committee of the Scottish parliament. Hence a Scottish clergyman cannot quarrel with the occupiers of lands in their parishes from levying tithes, as must often occur in England.

Political representation.

The constitution of the courts of law was sufficiently explained when treating of the city of Edinburgh. Scotland is represented in the British parliament by forty-five commissioners, and sixteen representatives of the ancient peerage. The proportion of representatives allotted to the counties amounts to thirty in number; and the member is elected by gentlemen who possess lands, or superiorities of lands, valued in the cess-books of the county at L.400 Scots; according to a valuation first introduced during the usurpation, and afterwards sanctioned by parliament.

The history of Scotland is a subject of too great intricacy and extent to be here discussed. The feudal anarchy prevailed over the whole kingdom till the accession of James the Sixth to the throne of England, and in the Highlands till after the rebellion in 1745-6.

Antiquities.

The remains of antiquity in the country are very numerous. To the antiquities connected with religion belong the Druidical temples, which are every where found, or at least in those places where the operations of agriculture or of building have not destroyed them. The ruins of magnificent cathedrals and monasteries demonstrate the state of power and opulence which the church of Rome anciently possessed in this country. In the Northern and Western Isles, and in the eastern and western coasts, numerous remains are to be seen of those conical buildings,

or Duns, constructed without cement, and before the art of throwing an arch was known. They are generally denominated Danish works, but they are probably older in date than the invasion of the Danes under Harold Harfager. The ruined castles of the feudal chieftains demonstrate the state of violence which prevailed in ancient times. They are now deserted, and have given way to elegant modern mansions, which abound in all quarters of the country. Antiquities.

Concerning the present cities and commerce of the country, we shall add nothing to what has been formerly stated.

To render intelligible some allusions to Scottish history, we shall add a list of the Scottish kings, as given by Buchannan and other old historians, and some tables necessary towards the farther illustration of the past or present state of Scotland.

A Chronological List of the Kings of Scotland, according to Buchannan.

	Began to reign before Christ.		Began to reign before Christ.
1. Fergus I.	330	10. Finnanus	137
2. Feritharis	305	11. Durstus	107
3. Mainus	290	12. Evenus I.	98
4. Dornadilla	261	13. Gillus	79
5. Nothatus	233	14. Evenus II.	77
6. Reutherus	213	15. Ederus	60
7. Reutha	187	16. Evenus III.	12
8. Thereus	173	17. Metallanus	5
9. Josina	161		

Kings of Scotland.

	A. D.		A. D.
18. Caratacus	34	49. Aidanus	575
19. Corbred I.	54	50. Kenneth I.	605
20. Dardanus	72	51. Eugenius IV.	606
21. Corbred II.	76	52. Farchard, or Ferchard I.	626
22. Luctacus	111	53. Donald IV.	638
23. Mogaldus	114	54. Farquhard II.	652
24. Conarus	150	55. Maldvinus	670
25. Ethodius I.	164	56. Eugenius V.	690
26. Satrael	197	57. Eugenius VI.	694
27. Donald I.	201	58. Amberkelethus	704
28. Ethodius II.	219	59. Eugenius VII.	706
29. Athirco	235	60. Murdachus	723
30. Nathalocus	247	61. Elfinus	739
31. Findochus	258	62. Eugenius VIII.	770
32. Donald II.	269	63. Fergus III.	773
33. Donald III.	270	64. Solvathius	776
34. Crathlinthus	282	65. Achaius	796
35. Fincormachus	304	66. Congallus III.	828
36. Romachus	351	67. Dongallus	833
37. Angusianus, or Æneas	354	68. Alpinus	840
38. Fethelmachus	357	69. Kenneth II.	843
39. Eugenius I.	360	70. Donald V.	863
40. Fergus II.	406	71. Constantine II.	868
41. Eugenius II.	420	72. Ethus	884
42. Dongardus	452	73. Gregory	886
43. Constantine I.	457	74. Donald VI.	904
44. Congallus I.	479	75. Constantine III.	915
45. Goranus, or Conranus	501	76. Malcolm I.	955
46. Eugenius III.	535	77. Indulphus	964
47. Congallus II.	558	78. Duffus	973
48. Kinnatellus	574	79. Culenus	978
		80. Kenneth III.	982

	A.D.
81. Constantine IV.	994
82. Grimus	996
83. Malcolm II.	1006
84. Duncan I.	1034
85. M'Beth	1043
86. Molcolm III. surnamed Canmore	1057
87. Donald VII.	1093
88. Duncan II. usurped the crown	1094
— Donald VII. restored	1095
89. Edgar	1098
90. Alexander I.	1107
91. David I.	1124
92. Malcolm IV.	1153
93. William	1165
94. Alexander II.	1214
95. Alexander III.	1249
96. John Baliol	1292
97. Robert Bruce	1306
98. David II.	1330
99. Edward Baliol usurped the crown in	1332
100. Robert II. first of the Stuarts	1370
101. Robert III.	1390
102. James I.	1423
103. James II.	1437
104. James III.	1460
105. James IV.	1489
106. James V.	1514
107. Mary	1543
108. James VI. of Scotland	1567
And I. of England	1604

Kings of Scotland.

A COMPARATIVE *View of the* POPULATION *of* SCOTLAND *in the years* 1755, 1790-8, *and* 1801, *with the* NUMBER *of* MILITIA *each County has to raise, agreeably to the last Act.*

Population.

	1755.	1790-8.	1801.	*Mil.*
1. Aberdeen	116,856	122,921	123,071	640
2. Argyle	63,291	76,101	75,700	364
3. Air	59,268	75,544	84,306	436
4. Banff	36,521	38,487	35,807	179
5. Berwick	24,946	30,875	30,206	155
6. Bute	6,866	10,563	11,791	61
Carry over	307,728	354,491	360,881	1835

Population.	1755.	1790-8.	1801.	Mil.
Brought over	307,728	354,491	360,881	1835
7. Caithness ..	22,215	24,802	22,609	121
8. Clackmannan.....	9,003	8,749	10,858	56
9. Cromarty ..	5,163	5,284	3,052	16
10. Dunbarton .	13,857	18,408	20,710	107
11. Dumfries ..	41,913	53,729	54,597	284
12. Edinburgh .	90,412	122,655	122,954	645
13. Elgin.....	28,934	26,080	26,705	138
14. Fife.....	81,570	87,250	93,743	484
15. Forfar	68,297	91,001	99,127	511
16. Haddington .	29,709	28,966	29,986	154
17. Inverness ..	64,656	73,979	74,292	384
18. Kincardine .	24,346	26,799	26,349	136
19. Kinross....	4,889	5,302	6,725	35
20. Kirkcudbright. ...	21,205	26,959	29,211	151
21. Lanark....	81,726	125,254	147,796	751
22. Linlithgow .	16,829	17,570	17,844	94
23. Nairn.....	5,694	6,054	8,257	43
24. Orkney and Shetland ..	38,591	43,239	46,824	*
25. Peebles....	8,908	8,107	8,717	45
26. Perth.....	118,903	133,274	126,366	653
27. Renfrew...	26,645	62,853	78,056	404
28. Ross	42,493	50,146	53,525	270
29. Roxburgh ..	31,273	32,020	33,712	178
30. Selkirk....	4,368	4,314	5,070	25
31. Stirling ...	38,813	46,663	50,825	163
32. Sutherland .	20,774	22,961	23,117	100
33. Wigton....	16,466	20,983	22,918	119
Total	1,265,380	1,527,892	1,604,826	7,902

* Orkney and Shetland have no militia. Seamen only are raised there.

Increase from	1755 to 1790-8	262,512	Rental of Scotland.
	1790-8 to 1801	76,934	
Total increase in 46 years		339,446	

The VALUED RENT *of* SCOTLAND *by* COUNTIES.

	Scots Money.		
Aberdeen	L.235,665	8	11
Argyle	149,595	10	0
Air	191,605	0	7
Banff	79,200	0	0
Berwick	178,365	7	3½
Bute and Arran	15,022	13	8
Caithness	37,256	2	10
Clackmannan	26,482	10	10
Cromarty	12,897	2	8
Dunbarton	33,327	19	0
Dumfries	158,627	10	0
Edinburgh	191,054	3	9
Elgin	65,603	0	5
Fife	362,584	7	5
Forfar	171,636	0	0
Haddington	168,878	5	10
Inverness	73,188	9	0
Kincardine	74,921	1	4
Kinross	20,192	11	2
Kirkcudbright	114,571	19	3
Lanark	162,118	16	11
Linlithgow	74,931	19	0
Nairn	15,163	1	1
Orkney and Shetland	56,551	9	1
Peebles	51,937	3	10
Perth	339,818	5	8
Carry over	L.3,061,195	19	6½

Royal Boroughs.

Brought over	L.3,061,195	19	6½
Renfrew	68,076	15	2
Ross	75,040	10	3
Roxburgh	315,594	14	6
Selkirk	80,307	15	6
Stirling	108,518	8	9
Sutherland	26,193	9	9
Wigton	67,646	17	0
Total	L.3,802,574	10	5½
Or, Sterling	316,881	4	2½

DISTRICTS of ROYAL BOROUGHS which send MEMBERS to PARLIAMENT.

Edinburgh City	1
Aberdeen, Aberbrothick, Bervie, Montrose, and Brechin	1
Air, Irving, Inverary, Rothsay, and Campbeltown	1
Anstruther, Easter and Wester Crail, Kilrenny, and Pittenweem	1
Banff, Cullen, Kintore, Elgin, and Inverary	1
Stirling, Culross, Inverkeithing, Dunfermline, and Queensferry	1
Perth, Dundee, Forfar, St Andrew's, and Cupar Fife	1
Glasgow, Renfrew, Rutherglen, and Dunbarton	1
Dumfries, Sanquhar, Annan, Lochmaben, and Kirkcudbright	1
Inverness, Fortrose, Nairn, and Forres	1
Kinghorn, Dysart, Kirkcaldy, and Burntisland	1
Jedburgh, Haddington, Lauder, Dunbar, and North Berwick	1
Selkirk, Peebles, Lanark, and Linlithgow	1
Stranraer, Wigton, Whitehorn, and New Galloway	1
Kirkwall, Tain, Dingwall, Wick, and Dornoch	1

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The reader will please *delete* the first line of page 336, Vol. IV. and insert it at the bottom of page 337.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION OF PLATES CONTAINED IN THIS WORK.

VOL. I.

BURN HOUSE, Midlothian (page 410).—This is a new building, lately erected on Galla Water, in the parish of Stow. It is a good-looking modern house, with a small pediment or tympany in front.

COLLINGTON TOWER, Midlothian (p. 410), anciently the seat of the family of Foulis of Collington, now belonging to Sir William Forbes of Pitsligo, Bart. It is situated within four miles of Edinburgh, and looks down on a beautiful country to the north.

CRAIG CROOK (or, as it is corruptly called, Grey Crook), Midlothian (p. 410), is pleasantly situated in a hollow at the foot of Corstorphine hill, in the parish of Cramond, about three miles west from Edinburgh. It is considered to be the most ancient family residence in the parish, though the date of its erection has not been accurately ascertained. It was built, probably, in the 16th century, by one of the family of Adamson, who were long proprietors of this place. On the outer gate of the court-yard appears a date, 1621, and a shield, containing the armorial bearings of the Adamsons of Craig Crook. William Adamson of Craig Crook was slain at the battle of Pinkie, 10th September 1547, along with his kinsman Alexander Napier of Merchiston. Previous to that period Craig Crook appears to have belonged to the no-

ble family of Graham, as appears from a charter in Father Hay's Collection, dated 9th April 1362.

One of the richest and most extensive prospects we are acquainted with, in the vicinity of Edinburgh, is from the top of the hill immediately above Craig Crook.

Vol. II.

THIRLESTANE CASTLE, Berwickshire (p. 58), the ancient family seat of the Earl of Lauderdale. It stands near the small royal borough of Lauder. The front of the house is small, bounded on each side by a great round tower, surmounted by slated cones. The portrait of the Duke of Lauderdale, by Lely, is to be seen here. There is also a portrait of the late Earl, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, which possesses great merit.

DRUMLENRIG HOUSE, Dumfries-shire, (p. 347), the magnificent seat of the family of Queensberry. It was begun to be built in 1679, and completed in 1689. It stands on the side of a hill above the river Nith, and is an immense pile. It is a square building, extending 145 feet in front, with a square tower at each corner, and three small turrets on each. Over the entrance is a cupola, whose top is in the shape of a vast ducal coronet; within is a court, and at every angle a round tower, each containing a stair-case. The apartments are numerous; the gallery is 108 feet long, with a fire-place at each end. Over the whole building is to be seen a profusion of hearts carved in stone, being the arms of Douglas. It was adopted by that powerful family, in consequence of Sir James Douglas, who pursued the English monarch from the field of Bannockburn to the gates of Dunbar Castle, having been entrusted with the heart of Robert Bruce, which he was to carry to the Holy Land; where, however, he did not arrive, having been killed in Portugal.

In the gallery are some good portraits; among which are those of the first Dutchess of Somerset, William Duke of Queensberry, John Earl of Traquair, Lord High Constable of Scotland in the reign of Charles the First, John Duke of Rothes, the Duke of Perth, George Douglas Earl of Dunbarton, the Earl of Clarendon, son of the Chancellor.

This great house, or rather palace, bears marks, both in its internal and external structure, of having been erected upon a plan of the celebrated Inigo Jones, and is one of the most splendid specimens of his mode of building. It was formerly surrounded by a park, containing upwards of seven hundred Scottish acres, covered with the finest timber in Britain. Scarcely a single tree now remains; the whole having been cut down and sold by order of the present duke. Here, too, were the celebrated Scottish bisons, or wild white cattle, which were shot by order of the same nobleman, and sold in Dumfries market as beef.

FRIARS CARSE, Dumfries-shire (p. 347), was the seat of the late Mr Riddel of Glenriddel, a Scottish antiquary. It is the scene of the well-known Bacchanalian contest for the WHISTLE, which Burns condescended to immortalize in a ballad.

RESCOE, or RUSCO CASTLE, Galloway (p. 427). It was once a place of some importance. Its owners were anciently the patrons of the parish church of Kirkmabreck.

KIRKMICHAEL HOUSE, Airshire (p. 542), has found a place in this Work on account of its beautiful situation.

DALCAIRNIE LIN, near Dalmellington, Airshire (p. 542).

Vol. III.

Cathcart Castle, two views (p. 182). This castle appears to have been a very strong building, situated on the borders of the counties of Lanark and Renfrew. Two of its sides are defended by the river Cart, the banks of which are nearly perpendicular, and of a tremendous height. The only access to it is by a narrow entry, which might easily be secured.

Craignethan Castle, Lanarkshire (p. 184), near the road between Lanark and Hamilton. It is a most romantic and uncommonly perfect specimen of the ancient Scottish strongholds. Though greatly deserving notice, we do not find that it has been formerly mentioned in any publication.

Bridgehouse Castle, Linlithgowshire (p. 528). This building was formerly, it is believed, denominated Bridgehouse. It is the property of Mr Watson, a writer in Linlithgow, and has not been noticed in any former publication.

Vol. IV.

Kinnaird Castle, Fifeshire (p. 167), is a romantic ruin, concerning the history of which little is known.

Dairsie Castle, Fifeshire (p. 167). This old castle, with the territory around it, belonged in 1622 to Archbishop Spottiswood. It lately belonged to the Marchioness of Titchfield. The estate was sold in 1746 for L.5000. About six years ago it was sold for L.56,000; and since that time it has been sold in lots for nearly a half more than this last sum.

Inch Mahon Monastery, Perthshire (p. 328), or Inchmaghan, or Inchmacan, or rather Inchmahome, as

written by Keith in his Catalogue of Bishops, is situated in the Loch of Monteith.

AUCHTERTYRE HOUSE, Perthshire (p. 338). This building is situated near Crief, and is the seat of Sir Patrick Murray, Bart. member of parliament for the city of Edinburgh. Auchtertyre stands on a hill, sprinkled over with oaks, and commanding a most elegant view. The pretty Loch Moinvard lies beneath, whose bottom yields a quantity of excellent marl, which has been dragged up for manure. The church of the same name stands at a small distance from it. About the year 1511, this place was a horrid scene of feudal revenge. Walter Murray, abbot of Inchaffray, having a claim on the tithes of this parish, then the property of the Drummonds, rode the boundaries in a manner that was interpreted by them insulting and tumultuous. They were determined to repel the abbot and his party, and at the instant were actually joined by an ally, the captain of Dunstaffnage, who was likewise on an errand of revenging the murder of some Drummonds by certain persons of the name of Murray. The abbot, fearing to be overpowered, took sanctuary in the church; when a shot from one of his party slew a follower of Dunstaffnage, who took instant and cruel vengeance, by burning the place, and all that had retired into it.

CASTLE GRANDTULLY, Perthshire (p. 338). This is the ancient family seat of Sir George Stewart, Bart.; the modern seat of whose family is Murthlie, below Dunkeld. Grandtully Castle is situated in Strathtay, between Kenmore and Dunkeld.

CASTLE COMRIE, Perthshire (p. 338), situated in the southern district of the county towards the Forth.

CLUNIE CASTLE, Perthshire (p. 338), stands in an island in the loch of Clunie. It was built about the beginning of

the sixteenth century by George Brown bishop of Dunkeld. It is still occasionally inhabited. Its wall is about nine feet thick. Its insular situation, and the improvements around it, together with the vicinity of the Grampians, render it romantic and beautiful.

CRAIGHALL, Perthshire (p. 338), the seat of Miss Rattray, near Blairgourie. Its situation is romantic in the highest possible degree. The house stands on the brow of a vast precipice, at the foot of which the river Ericht runs deep and sullen, forming a glen surrounded by heaths, on which are scattered numerous cairns, the monuments of hostility and death. The whole glen is extremely romantic. The river is confined in a narrow channel by rocks of an astonishing height; from the crevices of which the trees, in many places, shoot forth and intermingle their branches from opposite sides, so as to involve the river below in a deep gloom. In other spots, the impending precipices rise to an enormous height, with a smooth front, so as to exhibit all the varieties of aspect usually found in that sort of scenery peculiar to a mountainous country abounding in woods and streams.

MONCREIFF HOUSE, Perthshire (p. 338), the seat of Sir Thomas Moncreiff of Moncreiff, Bart. stands in the fine country of Strathern, at a little distance above the Bridge of Erne, on the north side of the river. It is a modern house, chiefly remarkable on account of the beauty of its situation.

EDZELL CASTLE, Forfarshire (p. 375). It consists of two stately towers, connected by an extensive wall. The Lindsays of Edzell were formerly very powerful. The property now belongs to Mr Maul of Panmure.

KINNAIRD HOUSE, Forfarshire (p. 375), the magnificent seat of the late Sir David Carnegie of South Esk, who was long member for the county. It is one of the finest

private gentleman's seats in Scotland. The plan of the building was prepared by Mr Playfair architect.

GANNOCHY BRIDGE, Forfarshire (p. 375). It is thrown across the river North Esk, consists of an arch of fifty-two feet, stands on two tremendous rocks, and is admired on account of its singular and romantic situation. It was built in the year 1732, at the expence of a man of obscure station, but great public spirit, James Black, tenant in the farm of Wood in the neighbourhood. He built the parapet walls with his own hands. A mason, for 300 merks Scottish money (L.16 : 13 : 4 Sterling), prepared the whole materials of the bridge. This was a great sum in those days for a Scottish tenant to expend upon a public work.

RAVENSCRAIG CASTLE, Aberdeenshire (p. 447), once a seat of a branch of the family of Marischal on the banks of the Ugre.

FINDLATER CASTLE, Banffshire (p. 462). It stands near Cullen, on a high rock projecting into the sea. It was strengthened in 1455 by Sir Walter Ogilvie, who had licence from James the Second to build a tower and fortalice at his castle of Findlater. It continued in possession of the family till it was usurped by the family of the Gordons; but was restored to the right heirs, about the year 1562, by Queen Mary, who for that purpose caused it to be invested both by sea and land.

ROCKS near Banff, Banffshire (p. 461); a specimen of the romantic rocks so frequently found on the northern coasts of Scotland.

DESKFORD CASTLE, in the county of Banff (p. 482), appears to have been a spacious building, in the form of a court, but little of it now remains. On one of the walls of the chapel are the Ogilvie's arms and motto, dated 1551.

CALDER CASTLE, Nairnshire (p. 515). This is the Cawdor of Shakespeare, long the property of its thanes. The most ancient part was a square tower, to which a more modern building had been annexed. The thanedom was transferred to the Campbells about the end of the fifteenth century. The second Earl of Argyle made a sudden inroad, and carried off the heiress of Calder, then an infant. The clan rose in arms, but were defeated by the Campbells, and the Earl of Argyle married the heiress of Calder to his second son. Calder appears to have been anciently a favourite name in Scotland, and many places bear the appellation of Calder; e. g. Calder House, belonging to Lord Torphichan, near Midcalder; Callander House, belonging to Mr Stirling of Keir, near Kirkintulloch; Calderwood near Glasgow, the seat of Sir William Maxwell of Calderwood. Certain waters and villages bear the same name.

VOL. V.

RUINED CHAPEL, near Lochness, Inverness-shire (p. 391).

FINIS.

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